



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 49

DROPPED BLOCKS INCIDENT

WHAT HAPPENED:

While the rig crew was pulling out of the hole with 5 inch drill pipe (8 stands into trip) to retrieve storm packer, the blocks were being lowered to latch onto another stand and pull it out of the hole. When the driller applied the electric brake he immediately noticed that it was not working. He then applied the manual drawworks brakes attempting to stop the blocks. His efforts slowed but did not stop the blocks from contacting the drill pipe in the slips. The top drive saver sub landed on the drill pipe and the elevators and bails hit the rig floor and slid towards the drawworks. The drilling line continued to spool off of the drawworks drum. According to their training, the floormen had been standing back watching the blocks descend and thus were out of harm's way when the incident occurred.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Fatigue failure of electric brake spline ring which occurred due to improper alignment of auxiliary brake and the drawworks shaft. In addition there were no written procedures requiring proper alignment techniques.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- Shut down and secured rig.
- Held all crew safety meeting.
- Developed plan of action to replace/repair damaged equipment and function test equipment to ensure fit for service prior to start-up.
- Conducted research into draw works service history.
- Sent damaged equipment to testing facility to identify failures.
- Developed additional inspection criteria based on equipment downtime history.



The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

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Issued November 2002