



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 03 – 05

RADIO ANTENNA CONTACTS HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES

WHAT HAPPENED:

During a recent rig move, an incident occurred involving electrical power lines. The rig camp was being transported to the new location. A new radio antenna had recently mounted on the Rig Manager's office building. When the building was being transported, the antenna came in contact with an overhead power line with 22,000 volts of current. The lines were hanging across the road as per normal practice. When the antenna contacted the line it was severely damaged and the truck that was carrying the load blew 2 tires. No injuries occurred but the company has classified this incident as a high potential Near Miss.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

No one was aware that the height of the new antenna would allow it to make contact with the power lines.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company issued the following directives to rig and supervisory personnel:

- All antennas should be removed or lowered prior to moving the rig.
- Antennas should be mounted in a way that they can be lowered.
- A designated route for the rig move should be agreed upon and the route scouted for any potential hazards prior to beginning the rig move.
- The height of overhead power lines above the road should be checked prior to the rig move.
- A safety meeting should be held with all crew members to discuss electrical safety.
- A JSA should be completed as part of the pre move risk assessment to ensure all tasks and hazards associated with the tasks are identified and corrected.
- If you should be in a vehicle that is in contact with an overhead power line, **DON'T LEAVE THE VEHICLE.** As long as you stay inside and avoid touching metal on the vehicle, you may avoid an electrical hazard. If you need to get out to summon help or because of fire, jump out without touching any wires or the machine, keep your feet together, and hop to safety.
- If an object (scaffolds, crane, etc.) must be moved in the area of overhead power lines, appoint a competent worker whose sole responsibility is to observe the clearance between the power lines and the object. Warn others if the minimum distance is not maintained.

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.