



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 – 29

FAILURE TO USE FALL PROTECTION RESULTS IN A FALL

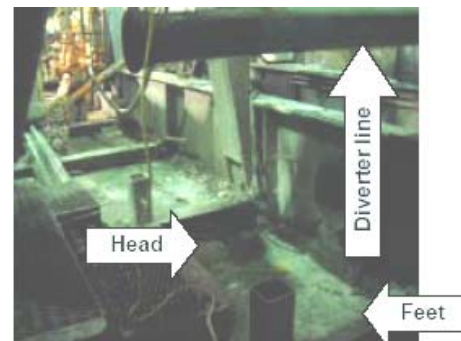
WHAT HAPPENED:

Two drilling rig workers had completed the installation of a valve and flowline to the diverter assembly under the rig floor. The workers were in the process of retrieving additional tools and lanyards that were required for the job which was to take the tugger off flowline and remove lanyards from substructure area. To access the lanyards one of the workers climbed under the flowline. He was not secured to the ladder fall arrest system while climbing and working at this position. He then reached for the lanyards and while in the process of tossing them to the rotary platform he lost his balance. He fell approximately 7 meters (23 feet) to the matting. Fortunately, he sustained only minor injuries.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The crew did not review or develop a JSA for working at heights on the flowline.
- The worker did not use a by-pass lanyard to ensure he was properly anchored at all times.
- The equipment was readily available on the rig.
- The worker's actions and equipment selection was not questioned by fellow workers who were with him or in the area.



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

- Site management should take a leadership role in the ongoing development of JSA's through direct participation and follow-up.
- Conduct pre-tour meetings focusing on operational hazards and safety expectations.
- Increase informal work site inspections by all supervisory staff on site. Provide focused visibility during performance of critical operations/tasks to reinforce safe work practices.
- Investigate installing a work platform in the flowline area to facilitate installation and removal of the flowline.

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.