



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 – 35

DRILL LINE SPOOL RUNAWAY

WHAT HAPPENED:

The Drill Crew was in the process of slipping and cutting 1-3/8" drill line. Two Floormen were assigned to un-spool wire rope until there was approximately a 40 ft. loop below the storage reel. The rig arrangement necessitates this to facilitate slipping the drill line through the deadline anchor. As the drill line reached the desired slack, the spool continued to rotate due to its momentum. An attempt was made to stop the rotation of the spool using a wooden board as a break lever. When it became evident it was not possible to stop the spool from rotating, all personnel were instructed to vacate the area and stay clear. The drill line eventually became entangled, which stopped the rotation of the spool. Several thousand feet of drill line un-spooled from the storage reel. Fortunately there were no injuries associated with this incident.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The practice is to manually un-spool drill line from the spool prior to slipping the drill line.
2. The drill line spool is not driven by a powered device.
3. The drill line spool is not equipped with a mechanical braking device.
4. A relatively full spool of drill line was in use and the momentum of the rotating spool was too great to be stopped manually.

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

1. A company standard drill line spool drive system was developed.

Issued Action Items

1. Domestic Operations in conjunction with Technical Services will develop a company standard drill line spool drive and braking system.
2. All rigs shall ensure appropriate safeguards are currently in place to prevent a similar incident, including but not limited to:
 - Review and revision of the JSA for the task of slipping and cutting drill line.
 - Ensuring the drill line spool is equipped with a mechanical braking device(s).
 - Confirm the mechanical braking device is maintained and fit for purpose.

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.