



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 98-06

Forklift Safety

WHAT HAPPENED:

A senior rig toolpusher was operating the rig forklift. He discovered a hydraulic leak after he had raised the load approximately 10 feet (3 meters) high. With the load still raised, he proceeded to repair the hydraulic leak on the lift controller of the forks. He stood under the raised load and was attempting to tighten the leaking fitting when the fitting broke completely off the hydraulic line. This caused the load to drop, trapping the toolpusher under the load. He was killed immediately.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

Following are some common-sense rules about forklift safety:

1. **NEVER** stand or work under -- or allow anyone else to stand or work under -- a raised load.
2. Report any defects immediately and do not use a faulty forklift until repaired.
3. Ensure that **ONLY** authorized, trained personnel operate powered equipment.
4. **ALWAYS** operate a forklift sensibly, consistent with the type of load and conditions prevailing.
5. Perform **DAILY** routine inspections on all equipment and schedule regular maintenance to ensure safety operation.
6. When left unattended, the forklift should be in neutral with the parking brake on, the forks lowered and the power switched *off*.

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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