



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 98-14

Bolt Breakage

WHAT HAPPENED:

While pulling out of the hole, both brake band anchor bolts failed. The elevators were about six feet (two meters) above the rotary table. Descent of the top drive system and traveling block was controlled using the brake and low clutch. No personnel were injured.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The bolts purchased from a local supplier were relatively new, installed only five months prior to the incident. Metallurgical analysis revealed that the failed bolts were of inferior quality and did not meet the manufacturer's specifications.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

Ensure that replacement parts meet manufacturer's specifications and are obtained from a reputable supplier.

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.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.
Copyright © 1998 International Association of Drilling Contractors. All Rights Reserved
Issued August 1998