



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 98-19

Fall Protection

WHAT HAPPENED:

After being released from a daywork contract, the crew was preparing to move the rig to a new drill site. During bridling-up operations, a rig worker climbed up and stood on the side of the derrick to keep the bridle line from kinking when raised by the traveling block. The employee fell 60 feet (18 meters) to the rotary table and was killed.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The employee climbed the derrick without using a fall arrest system.
2. The employee was inexperienced in the bridling-up operation.
3. The drilling contractor did not have a Job Safety Analysis (JSA) to cover the task of bridling up.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

1. Adequate supervision must include enforcement of safety standards.
2. When working at an unprotected height of 10 feet or more, a fall arrest system must be used (NOTE: Some companies set this height at six feet or more).
3. A Job Safety Analysis must be completed for each task and properly communicated to each employee affected. Information on performing JSAs is contained in the *IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide*.
4. Each employee must be trained and qualified for the task being performed.

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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