



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 98-29

Power Line Safety

WHAT HAPPENED:

While moving a rig, a forklift was being used to transport a small desanding motor. Instead of putting the forks under the frame, the forks were used to hoist the motor using a sling attached to the top of the motor frame. This put the forks in a high position. As the forklift moved across location, the forks snagged a power line. This broke the power line support pole, and the energized line fell across the forklift. The forklift operator was able to jump clear before the power line contacted the forklift. He was not injured, although *this could have been a fatal incident*.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Safety meetings should be held when rigging up. The location could be examined for any possible hazards or obstructions that might affect moving equipment or other operations.
2. Hazards such as power lines should be identified and clearly marked. The height of the power lines should be measured or estimated as accurately as possible. If the lines are too low to allow the safe movement of equipment, alternate routes should be established.
3. Forklift and other equipment operators should be familiar with any hazards on location. They should know the height of the load or equipment they are moving, and ensure that it can safely pass under a power line or obstruction. If it cannot, they need to take alternate routes.
4. When using a forklift, equipment and other items should be lifted properly, with the forks underneath the load.

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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