



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 99-02

## FORKLIFT ACCIDENT

### WHAT HAPPENED:

A crew was in the process of rigging up a rig on location. They were attempting to attach the derrick board to the mast and were using a forklift to lift the board into place. Chains were used to secure the derrick board to the forks and to the forklift. When they attempted to raise the derrick board, the board would rock forward because the bulk of the weight was on the front portion of the forks. A decision was made to use the smaller whip line from the crane to aid in the lift and also help balance the derrick board. Two employees stood on the derrick board as it was being lifted into position. They were going to pin the derrick board to the mast. As they were being lifted up, the crossbeam, which was chained to the forklift, came apart. The derrick board was pulled off the forklift's forks by the crane's whip line and the two workers fell/jumped to the ground. One of the employees struck his head on a rock and died from a blunt force trauma to the head and multiple skull fractures.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. Instruct the employees that standing on a load being moved, lifted, etc., by a crane or a forklift is an unacceptable work practice and should never be done. (OSHA standard CFR 1910.189(h)(3)(v) prohibits the practice of hoisting, lowering, swinging, or traveling while anyone is on the load or hook.)
2. A job safety analysis (JSA) should be performed and should be used for completing a task.
3. When working with other contractors, a pre-job safety meeting should be held with all on-site personnel.
4. Make sure that the equipment needed to do the job are on location and do not substitute other equipment to get the job done.

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**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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