



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 99-03

TRAVELING BLOCK-CROWN INCIDENT

WHAT HAPPENED:

An incident occurred where the traveling block bumped the crown on a drilling rig. The Crown-A-Matic was properly set and working at the time of the incident. An investigation revealed that the "quick-release" valve on the drum-clutch had not been cleaned for some time and was releasing the air from the drum-clutch so slowly that the clutch was dragging and caused the block to continue traveling up to the crown. It was also revealed that there was no "bumper-seal" installed at the crown at the time of this incident. No injuries and no serious equipment damage resulted from this incident but it was truly a "near-miss".

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. All quick-release valves should be cleaned and inspected periodically as per the manufacturer recommendations.
2. The company put in place a policy requiring that the mast should not be raised until the mast inspection report has been performed and the mast brought into compliance with their standards.
3. Manufacturer recommendations and instructions were distributed with the alert for review and action.

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.
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