

Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 15-01

UNINTENTIONAL UNLATCHING OF AN AIR OPERATED ELEVATOR

WHAT HAPPENED:

While the rig was operating using “single joint drill pipe” operations, the 350 Ton air operated elevator was unintentionally opened by the Driller. This resulted in a single joint of drill pipe dropped onto the Drill Floor from a height of +/- 3 meters before coming to rest on the Derrick structure.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

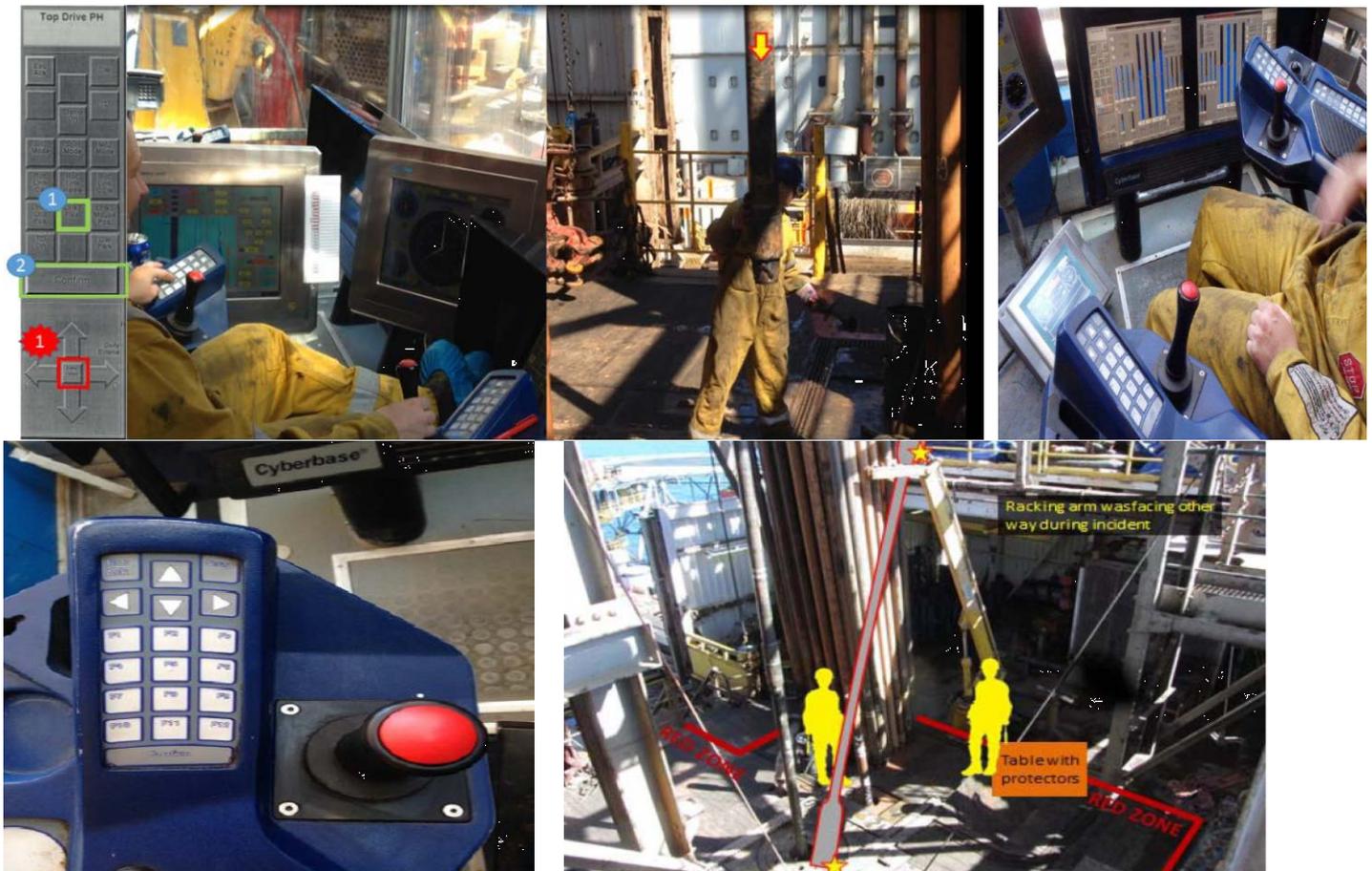
- Skill based (training & competency of person at controls) Mistake
- Cyberbase/air operated elevator system(s) can open at any given time (double click left joy stick button).

Some of the casual factors surrounding this event included:

- Inadequate Joystick Design
- Inadequate Consideration of Human Factors

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- Review Lessons Learned with crews during Weekly Safety Meeting.
- Remind individuals to remain outside the “Red Zone” when joints are suspended.
- Onshore and Offshore Managers should review automated operated elevators and slips and ensure specific technical measures to prevent dropped objects are incorporated.
- Review JSA and update if necessary for any operations involving remotely operated elevators.



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