



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 99-24

CEMENTING CASING

WHAT HAPPENED:

After running approximately 1,600 feet of 8-5/8 inch casing a floorhand climbed onto the top of the casing and cementing head to make up a chicksan joint. After completing the task, the employee decided to remove the pick-up line from the joint while he was there. During this time, the Driller engaged the rig pump to break circulation and wash the casing to bottom. As a result, the casing began to push out of the hole and slid up through the elevators pinning the employee's right leg and knee between the cementing head and blocks. The employee sustained injuries to his knee and lower leg.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

Several factors contributed to this injury.

1. The casing/cementing head had not been secured (chained) to the sub-structure to prevent the casing from pushing up the hole.
2. The employee was not using any fall protection/positioning equipment while working above ground. The employee had to sit atop of the joint placing him between the cementing head and the blocks.
3. The Driller and the Rig Manager did not ensure that all personnel were in a safe position before engaging the rig pump.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. A pre-job safety meeting should include a discussion of equipment and other potential hazards.
2. A Job Safety Analysis (JSA) is a helpful tool in identifying and avoiding potential hazards. Information on performing JSAs can be found in the *IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide*.
3. Casing should always be properly secured (chained) so the pipe cannot inadvertently move up or down the hole.
4. All personnel are to use appropriate fall protection/work positioning equipment when working above ground.
5. All personnel, particularly Drillers and Rig Managers should ensure that all personnel are in a safe position before any piece of equipment is moved, activated, or engaged.

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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