



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 00-17

## HELICOPTER LOADING / UNLOADING PRACTICES

### WHAT HAPPENED:

A helicopter arrived at a rig and was met two roustabouts to unload cargo. The pilot decided not to shut the helicopter down in order to make a quick turn-around. After the passengers exited the helicopter and claimed their personal belongings, the roustabouts began unloading the cargo bay. Unknown to them, the co-pilot was on the opposite side of the aircraft, pushing the cargo toward them. The two men looked up just in time to see a wheel-mounted casing cutter roll out of the cargo bay. One man was able to jump free, but the second man was injured when the heavy tool fell on his foot.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

There was no communication between the roustabouts and the co-pilot. The roustabouts were unaware the co-pilot was trying to assist them by pushing cargo from the opposite side. The co-pilot was unaware of heavy cargo on rollers on the opposite side as he pushed cargo across the bay.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Proper communication between the flight crew and the facility personnel who are to unload the cargo is a must.
- Pilots are in charge of the aircraft, personnel aboard, and cargo. Notify your pilot of any additional safety precautions that are required to complete the loading/unloading of cargo.
- Since the pilot/co-pilot assist in loading cargo, they should inform the personnel who are to unload the cargo of heavy items or other items that require caution when unloading. Person's loading/unloading the cargo bay should communicate their intentions of how to move the cargo (informal pre-job safety meeting).
- Assigned personnel should unload the cargo bay and transport the equipment from the helideck, either manually or with the use of a crane.

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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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