



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 06 – 06

SINGLE JOINT ELEVATOR / NEAR MISS

WHAT HAPPENED:

A high potential near miss incident occurred recently while conducting a routine operation. The operation at the time was laying down 4-1/2 inch tubing and involved placing a single joint into the mouse hole. The joint was latched using a set of single joint elevators in order to pick it up and lay it down on the catwalk. An air tugger was used to hoist the joint of tubing and while lowering it down the V-door the elevators opened, releasing the joint and resulting in the joint falling down the V-door onto the catwalk. Fortunately there were no personnel in the immediate vicinity. One important fact to consider is that when this event occurred, the crew had just changed out for a coffee break and the man coming back on the job did not check the latching of the elevator nor did he check the integrity of the safety pin.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Procedures were in place along with a Job Risk Assessment (JRA) however these were not completely followed.
- Double checking of the safety pin was not listed on the Job Risk Assessment.
- Safety pin installed was the split pin type and not the single pin type as recommended.
- Failure to identify and implement an effective Management of Change (MOC).
- Lack of proper supervision.
- Lack of awareness / Complacency with regard to conducting an apparent routine task.
- Failure to prepare an adequate Job Risk Assessment.
- Failure to comply with the Job Risk Assessment i.e. double check the secure latching of the elevators.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

To address this incident, this company issued the following to rig personnel:

Our ability to identify change and the actions we take to manage that change will continue to determine our level of Safety Success. Please refer to our Management of Change (MOC) Policy. This near miss like most incidents was completely preventable if we had merely managed the change and effectively used the safety tools that were available. When conducting risk assessment we must always consider **all** known and potential hazards and then **apply** effective risk reduction measures. Quite simply it is a matter of actually doing what we say we are going to do.

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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Issued February 2006