



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 06 – 18

NEAR MISS - DRILL STRING PARTS WHEN BOP PIPE RAMS ARE LEFT CLOSED

WHAT HAPPENED:

After conducting a routine Hydrogen Sulphide (H₂S) drill and returning to drilling mode. The Driller engaged the drum clutch and picked up the drill string while the BOP pipe rams were still in closed position. As a result the drill string parted at the slip area reaching its maximum tensile yield of the first joint that was being hoisted. The elevators and the links jumped violently when the pipe parted and approximately 4 foot of broken drill pipe dislodged from the elevators which were approximately 15-20 feet above the rotary table. Before landing on the drill floor the dislodged pipe brushed the right shoulder of a floor hand standing in the immediate area. Two other floor hands were also working the rig floor at the time.

This incident had the potential to result in severe consequences up to and including fatal. Fortunately the floor man suffered no significant injury and will be able to return to normal duties.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Human Error – Driller did not open the pipe rams before returning to normal operations.
- Failure to follow procedures - Although it is company policy and warning signage i.e. BOP Open/Closed were available on the rig they were not used in this instance.

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

- Rig Managers are to ensure that the company designed warning signage which is designed to fit over the weight indicator is available and used whenever BOP's Rams are closed. See example below.
- Compliance with the above is to be reported to the respective Rig Superintendent.
- Onsite Safety Officer is to randomly check that warning signage is being used during BOP drills. Non compliance is to be reported to the relevant Rig Superintendent.



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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