



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 07 – 24

HIGH POTENTIAL DROPPED OBJECT

WHAT HAPPENED:

During normal drilling operations a dropped object consisting of a tong bucket counterweight weighing approx. 8 -10 lbs fell from the mast. The Driller heard noises coming from above and looked up and saw a object falling. He immediately yelled to the Floormen to stand back. The Floormen all moved and stood to the side of the rig floor. The counterweight landed on the rig floor beside the rotary table on the Driller's side. It bounced approximately 6 feet and landed on the rotary table. No injuries were incurred as a result of this High Potential Near Miss incident. The Operation was shut down and an investigation conducted.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The Site Welder had failed to correctly secure the additional tong counter weight segments. There was a failure by Supervisors to recognize and calculate the difference in the height of segments that ultimately caused the weights to protrude from the counter weight bucket. No pre-task safety meeting was conducted and a potentially hazardous situation was not recognized. The Rig's Supervisors did not implement a Management of Change (MOC) plan for change-out of equipment. The changing of the tongs was conducted by the Floormen on the rig floor under the supervision of the Driller, Assistant Driller and Rig Manager. None of these personnel were aware of the potential dangers associated with replacing the existing tongs with a newer and heavier set.

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

- The new tongs were replaced with the old tongs until the counter weights were safely modified to ensure positioning stability.
- Tongs were replaced and counterweights were modified (MPI Certified).
- An investigation was conducted and a meeting was conducted to discuss the incident and make all personnel aware of the potential for serious injury/fatality on a routine decision to change out tongs and make additions to the tong counter weights.
- Ensure that the inspection process be included in the Rig Site Dropped Objects Management System (DOMS).



Tong counter weight segment landed beside rotary table and bounced a further 5-6 feet.



Corrective action towards securing tong counterweight segments

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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