



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 12 – 09

TANGLED FALL ARREST CABLE RESULTS IN FATALITY

WHAT HAPPENED:

A pipe screen was left in the drill pipe that was racked in the derrick board. The derrickman could not free the screen, so the motorman went up to the derrick board with a tool to pry it out. After prying it out, the pipe was made up into the drill string. The driller started to lower the drill string into the hole when the motorman's retractable fall arrest cable became entangled with the safety clamp on the Kelly hose. The motorman was knocked to the derrick board and could not get his fall arrest cable untangled. Due to the weight and force of the blocks and top drive, the fall arrest cable parted and he fell 75' (~23m) to the rig floor.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The motorman was tied off to the crown fall device.
- The driller engaged the blocks and top drive allowing the safety clamp on the Kelly hose to catch the motorman's fall arrest cable.

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

- Instructed the driller that the blocks are not to be moved if the men on the derrick board are not tied off to a retractable fall arrest device on the derrick board.
- Instructed all employees to tie off to the derrick board when hoisted in to position and not to stay tied off to the fall arrest device attached to the crown when on the derrick board.

IADC Note: **Please refer to the IADC HSE Reference Guide on Personnel Hoisting Operations (Chapter 19) for more information. See the IADC Safety Meeting Topic Book Fall Protection Section, Also review IADC Safety Alerts: 98-25, 01-09, 04-04, & 04-26

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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