



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 12 – 11

NEAR MISS: CRANE CONTACTS HIGH POWER ELECTRICAL LINES

WHAT HAPPENED:

To keep from causing congestion on the location, the crane was dropped off outside the location. The operator had rigged the crane up as a short boom. The crane operator, while being assisted by his rigger, then proceeded onto the location. While moving onto the location the boom contacted the power lines and broke two 21' (~6m) high power lines. Fortunately there were no injuries; however, this could have been a very serious incident! The operator and rigger had apparently been distracted by other issues as they navigated their path and had failed to look overhead and notice the lines.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Operator elected to rig up the crane outside of location and then move it onto the location;
2. No pre-check of the route nor the hazards;
3. No power line overhead warning signs were in place;
4. Possible complacency;
5. Employees possibly distracted by other equipment and only the route at ground level;
6. Possible routine of rigging up elsewhere to avoid slowing down the move (may be necessary on some moves);

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

- Reminded employees to clear the route and discuss any obstacles or potential hazards.
- Instructed crane personnel to discuss, in morning meetings or other safety meetings, the need to look for hazards before they move, maintain good communication and be aware of their surroundings and hazards before tracking.
- Reminded crane personnel that before tracking cranes in or out of lease roads, the Crane Operator will request approval from the Truck Pusher or Safety Manager to ensure that the route to be traveled has been inspected for overhead power lines. No exceptions!
- If there is no Truck Pusher or Safety Manager on location, the Crane Operator will call the office for approval. This will ensure that the route has been inspected for overhead power lines. No exceptions!
- The Crane Operator will have a spotter walking in front of the crane far enough ahead to ensure the route being traveled is clear when tracking cranes in or out of location and traveling on lease roads. No exceptions!
- Reminded employees that overhead power line signs will be posted on any power lines crossing lease roads, no matter how high the power lines may be. It will be the responsibility of the Truck Pusher, Safety Manager, or Crane Operator to post the overhead power lines signs, whoever is there first. Each of these persons are to be issued overhead power line signs to have on hand.
- Reminded all employees that although it is constantly brought up in tailgate meetings, we cannot allow ourselves to become complacent in identifying hazards.

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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