



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 07 – 04

SELF RETRACTING LIFELINE CABLE FAILURE

WHAT HAPPENED:

The Safety Drilling Representative was conducting the monthly Self Retracting Lifeline (SRL) inspection and was in the process of removing from service a SRL to be returned to the Manufacture for re-certification. The inspection revealed that the SRL cable had parted at the first cable crimp, which is located approximately 5” from the safety latch.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The 85’ SRL assembly had been in service approximately two years.
2. The SRL assembly was located in the cellar deck. The cellar deck is enclosed, reducing weather exposure.
3. The SRL cable was not retracted into the block housing, but was pulled out and secured to a beam located below the SRL assembly.
4. The rubber boot protector for the cable crimps may have allowed water and moisture to become trapped, resulting in excessive rusting.

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

- **Issued the following directive to all rigs:**

Ensure that Self Retracting Lifeline cables are retracted into the SRL housing when not in use. A light auxiliary cable for retrieval may be attached if this is a positioning issue.

- **Action Item:**

Slide the Self Retracting Lifeline rubber boot down the cable to expose the cable and crimp. Then inspect where the cable and crimp meets. Look for excess rusting and deterioration. Return the rubber boot to original position. This process must be performed during each monthly inspection.

- Update all JSAs relating to the use of Self Retracting Lifelines to include the Directive and Action Item.

IADC Note: See HSE Reference Guide Section 20

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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