



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01-14

TWO CREWMEN FATALLY INJURED WHEN STRUCK BY A STAND OF DRILL PIPE

WHAT HAPPENED:

An extra long cement stand was made up and was being set back into the aft racking area with the intermediate and upper racking arms. Before the racking arms retracted sufficiently, the descending top drive struck the top of the stand, creating a severe bow. The bottom end of the pipe skidded across the drill floor striking two crewmembers.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The stand was abnormally long.
- Due to drill collars obstructing access to the racking area, the stand was being “tilted” to get the stand into racked position. This caused the top of the stand to protrude under the top drive gearbox more than normal.
- The driller’s vision of the upper racking arm was partially obstructed by racked tubulars.
- The driller’s communications with the racking system control cab operators were inoperable.
- The driller failed to adequately look at the upper racking arm retraction indicator light and TV camera picture before lowering the blocks.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- A Derrick Management Plan was developed to ensure proper access for tubulars into racking areas and to minimize obstruction of driller’s vision.
- Reliable communications were provided between driller and racking system operators.
- Drillers were instructed to confirm verbally, visually, and through instrumentation that stand is clear before lowering traveling equipment.

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.

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