



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 01-47

NEAR MISS – MATERIAL DROPPED FROM OVERHEAD LOAD

WHAT HAPPENED:

In a recent incident a serious near miss occurred while the Crane Operator and the Roustabout crew were offloading 4-1/2" tubing from a boat. Plastic type separators were used to separate the layers of tubing. A piece of plastic separator from the load fell approximately 50' and struck a service company employee. The service company employee was not seriously injured.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The slings were wrapped too close to the separators, causing damage.
- The straps holding the separators to the tubing were broken and allowed the broken piece to fall.
- The Crane Operator did not warn employees of an impending lift and employees remained under the load even after the lift had commenced.

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

- Re-enforcement of rigger training may be necessary for Roustabouts as well as shore base personnel who load the boats.
- Stress to all employees and other personnel on the rig that they must always be aware of overhead loads.
- Crane Operators were instructed not to maneuver a suspended load over the heads of personnel and sound a warning for everyone to stand clear if such a swing is made.
- Crane Operators were instructed to keep unnecessary personnel outside of the crane's area of operation.
- Standing under a suspended load is a violation of Company Safety Policy, and will be enforced.
- Pre-tour and pre-job meetings should detail when loads are planned and the specific areas that will be affected.
- Staying clear of loads is the last line of defense to avoid incidents with overhead loads. This must be emphasized with visitors and crews whenever lifts are planned.

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.
