



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

---

ALERT 02 – 25

## GREASING CROWN ASSEMBLY – NEAR MISS

### WHAT HAPPENED:

While greasing a deadline sheave, a Roustabout (who had never been to the crown before) placed his arm through the fast line sheave for stability. At the same time the rig mechanic on the rig floor asked the Driller to move the blocks to enable him to grease them. The Driller forgot the Roustabout was working in the derrick until after he stopped the drum clutch immediately after starting it. The grease gun was caught in the sheave, wrenching it from the hand of the Roustabout. The Roustabout suffered slight bruising to the forearm and the grease gun fell to the ground just missing a Company Representative. THIS INCIDENT HAD HIGH POTENTIAL AND COULD HAVE RESULTED IN AN AMPUTATION OR A SEVERE BLOW TO ANYONE WORKING ON THE FLOOR.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

The Driller forgot that a Roustabout was working in the derrick and the Lockout / Tagout procedure of the drawworks was not followed. Supervision became complacent.

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

Instructed all rig supervisors and personnel that:

- ?? The Lockout / Tagout procedure is to be followed when greasing the traveling blocks, crown, or when work is being conducted in the derrick.
- ?? Inexperienced workers need to be shown how to complete tasks. (JSAs)
- ?? A sign displaying “Danger – Workmen Above” be displayed on the rig floor when maintenance or other operations are being conducted in the derrick.
- ?? Dropped Object safe practices shall be adopted and used for all work equipment which is being used at a height above 6 feet. All tools must be secured to the worker or tool basket. The area below the worker must also be barricaded off.
- ?? Improved communication among team members to ensure all employees are aware of the whereabouts of other team members at all times.
- ?? A JSA is required for greasing the block and lines & all other activities involving 2 or more employees and 3 or more sequential steps.
- ?? A Safety Meeting to be held prior to commencement of work to identify the hazards associated with greasing the crown block.
- ?? Improved Supervision to observe and identify potential hazards before they occur.

---

**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.**