



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 35

DROPPED OBJECT (DRIFT RABBIT) RESULTS IN RWC

WHAT HAPPENED:

While lowering the drift rabbit down “V” door by air winch, the drift slipped off the winch’s hoist line. It slid down the V-door slide striking injured person’s finger resulting in a Restricted Work Case.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The investigation revealed that a welding rod had been used to secure the Rabbit to the winch’s line rather than using the proper attachment (hook). The injured person had positioned himself in line with the path of the load being lowered. It was also found that the winch operator was not experienced (trained) in the operation of the winch.

As personnel were not aware of the dropped object hazard involved with lifting rabbit by air winch there was an apparent lack of safety awareness by the task supervisor and in the pre-job safety meeting.

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

Instructed Supervisors and personnel:

- Using proper equipment for the job, lifting operations with a potentiality of dropped object must be proceeded with a pre job safety meeting and a JSA to ensure all personnel are aware of hazards involved and positioned to avoid being struck by a dropped object.
- The winch operator should be an experienced employee who is trained in the safe operation of the air winch.
- The operator must remain at the controls of the air winch at all times when a load is being lowered, raised or held in the air.
- Supervisors are to correct unsafe acts and stop the job when they are deemed unsafe.

IADC Note: See Alerts” 00 – 31” and “02 – 03”

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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