



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 02 – 43

DRILL COLLAR BACKS OUT OF LIFT SUB

WHAT HAPPENED:

While preparing to lay down the bottom hole collar, the crew was attempting to breakout the bit. The lift sub backed out of the drill collar allowing the drill collar to fall. The drill collar fell off the rig floor striking the windwall on the drillers side of the “V-Door”. The drill collar came to rest with the box end sticking in the ground and the bit at rest against the substructure near the “V-Door”. There were no injuries.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The investigation revealed that there were no procedure in place for handling the laying down and/or breaking out of the bit from the bottom collar prior to laying it down. Due to this, personnel were not aware of the need to make the lift-handling sub secure in the drill collar prior to hoisting it to break out the bit. Without procedures, there was not adequate training and therefore inadequate knowledge by the personnel working on the rig floor. Haste to get the drill collars laid down and lack of supervision allowed the collar to be hoisted without the lift sub being tightened into the drill collar. Due to inadequate visual contact, no one observed that the drill collar was turning out of the lift sub. It was also discovered that there was poor communication between the supervisor and rig floor crewmen.

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

Issued the following directive to rig crews:

- Make a new JSA to address breaking the bit out while laying down drill collars.
 - It was recommended that when developing the JSA, crews include leaving 2 or 3 drill collars above the bit when breaking out the bit.
 - Also to be included in the JSA is a procedure to ensure that the lift sub is tightened (torqued) in the upper drill collar connection prior to hoisting the drill collars to break out the bit.
 - Include in the JSA a provision to have one of rig floor crewman observe the lift sub to ensure that it does not back out when the bit is being broke out and removed from the drill collar.

IADC Note: Reference IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide Section 3.26 for information on drill collar lift subs.

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.
Copyright © 2002 International Association of Drilling Contractors. All Rights Reserved
Issued September 2002