



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 03 – 27

## FALL FROM RIG FLOOR RESULTS IN SERIOUS INJURIES

### WHAT HAPPENED:

While numbering drill pipe for a tally, a worker fell 4.27 meters (14.9 ft.) from the rig floor and landed in the pipe tubs. The injury occurred when the worker stepped through the guardrail opening at the back of the rig floor and attempted to reach out to number the back row of pipe. The injured worker sustained four fractured ribs, lung was pulled away from his chest wall and he incurred a tear in the sac around his heart.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The task and the risks were not evaluated.
- Non-compliance to company fall protection rules.
- The opening in the guardrail was not closed off when not pulling pipe.

**CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:** To address this incident, this company issued the following instructions to rig personnel and supervisors:

- The preferred method for numbering pipe will be to perform the task from the ground.
- Workers shall not be put at risk of falling off the rig floor while performing a task.
- Workers must remain behind guardrails or adhere to company fall protection requirements.
- Supervisors make sure all tasks are thoroughly evaluated to reduce risk to workers.

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**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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