



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 03 – 40

NYLON SLING FAILED WHILE POSITIONING BOP CONTROL POD

WHAT HAPPENED:

A crew was moving the BOP control POD from the bow to the aft of the moon pool in order to place it on the POD stand. The POD was lifted with one winch line with a sheave anchored directly above the POD. The weight was then transferred from that winch line to another winch line. The second winch line was lowered through the rig floor. During this procedure the utility winch in the moon pool was being utilized with a nylon strap choked to the POD arm so the POD could be pulled into position and lowered onto the POD stand. The nylon strap broke which allowed the POD to rotate and strike an employee.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. The employee positioned himself in a hazardous area between the POD and the handrail protecting the moon pool.
2. The 3' x 1" nylon strap came into contact with the sharp beveled edge on the guide funnel of the POD arm, which cut the nylon strap.
3. The 3' x 1" nylon strap was in a choker configuration and rated for 2,500 lbs. This strap was used to pull the POD approximately 8' from center, which could have exceeded the Safe Working Load (SWL) of the strap.
4. JSA for this task was reviewed, however no mention was made of body placement, or utilizing a nylon strap.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company issued the following directive to rig personnel:

- Proper body and hand placement cannot be stressed enough, and the JSA must be clear on hazardous areas and safe zones. Ensure that all JSAs identify these areas, and that these areas are discussed and clearly understood prior to the start of any task.
- Ensure the JSA matches the task. Each step and all equipment used must be analyzed to ensure the hazards are identified and safety measures are in place to eliminate those hazards.
- When using a nylon strap, ensure the strap cannot come into contact with a sharp object.
- When applying horizontal or diagonal pulls, wire rope shall be used, and the SWL of the wire rope must exceed the rating of the winch.

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.
