



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 – 04

LANYARD CAUGHT IN KELLY RESULTS IN A FATALITY

COULD THIS HAPPEN TO YOU?

WHAT HAPPENED:

Full body harness and attachments



A rig worker was fatally injured after his 6-foot lanyard was wrapped around the Kelly bar. The daylight crew were in the process of drilling surface hole. A cable used during slip and cut operations had become unsecured and was hanging inside the derrick. The Motorman volunteered to secure the cable to the derrick girt. The worker was wearing a full body harness with a 6-foot rope lanyard attached to his shock absorber.

The Driller, standing at the driller controls, watched the worker complete the task. The rotary table was slowed down as the worker was positioned at the girt. Once the worker completed the task the Driller resumed rotating at 130 RPM. As the worker climbed down the derrick ladder the Driller walked across the floor to adjust his weight indicator. The Motorman walked across the rig floor over toward the Driller positioned at the weight indicator (mud tank side of floor or off-driller's side). The Driller heard the Motorman speak and turned toward the rotary table. The Motorman stood on the corner of the rotary table (mud tank side), his lanyard wrapped around the Kelly bar (Kelly rotating 130 RPM). The lanyard was floating around the Kelly bar but did not grab. The Driller immediately ran to the driller console, the inertia brake was engaged and both clutches for the drawworks kicked out. The Driller witnessed the lanyard tighten to the Kelly bar and the Motorman pulled into the bushing.

The rotary table was turning at approximately 130 RPM

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company instructed rig supervisors and personnel in the following:

- Identify and enforce clear standards associated to working around rotating table. To assist this process complete an individual hazard assessment clearly identifying **danger zone** (distance) and compliance measures.
- Identify and enforce clear standards associated to use of fall protection equipment in and around rotating equipment.
- Work with fall protection training agencies to ensure that procedures for wearing fall protection address hazards associated to moving equipment.

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.

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