

Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 – 41

DERRICKMAN PULLED OFF BOARD

WHAT HAPPENED:

The Derrickman was tying off a stand of 9” drill collars while the floor crew was placing a single 8” drill collar in the mouse hole. As the 8” collar was being picked up, the rig floor hoist line was dragging upward against the front of the derrick board. The force of the line on the front of the derrick board caused the board to rise, pivoting at the hinge at the back of the board. The safety retracting lifeline cable passed under the raised board. Then air hoist line slipped off the board into the alleyway. The falling board snagged the lifeline and the Derrickman was drug across the fingers and off the board. The Derrickman struck his leg and head. The lifeline and full body harness arrested his fall just below the board. Because the Driller was on the board instructing the Derrickman about setting back the collars he was able to assist the Derrickman back to the board.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

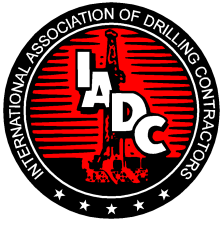
1. Two simultaneous operations were taking place during this incident; the Derrickman was tying back a stand of drill collars, and the floor crew was placing an 8” drill collar in the mouse hole. There was no communication between the floor crew and the Derrickman. Often times the Derrickman is completing his task while the floor crew is proceeding with the next task. The typical procedure for controlling the air hoist line riding on the front of the board is for the Derrickman to move the hoisting line to the alley way between the board and the fingers as the air hoist operator takes the slack out of the line.
2. Hands free intercoms between the Driller’s console and the derrick board are a Company requirement but it was not being used.
3. The storm bar was not closed across the fingers.
4. The Derrickman is mostly alone in the derrick, ±85-feet above the rig floor; yet his activities are very much coordinated with the Floor crew.

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

1. This requires the floor crew and the Derrickman to work together and good two-way communication is necessary.
2. In this case, use of the hands-free intercom may have allowed the Derrickman or the Driller to participate in the job-planning meeting (JSA) with the floor crew. Be sure your rig has functioning hands-free communications between the console and the derrick board.
3. Typical derrick design includes a “storm bar”, consisting of square tubing or round pipe that slides across the front of the board. This not only keeps loose pipe from going across the derrick, but also prevents the air hoist line from getting into the fingers or riding on the front of the board. Does your board have a storm bar that functions as it should? The storm bar could have been used in this situation when picking up drill collars from the catwalk with the air hoist.
4. Be aware of the Derrickman and the floor activities that directly impact his work and vice versa. The Driller is in tune to the needs of the Derrickman and pays constant attention to his activities. The air hoist operator and floor crew should also be continuously monitoring the Derrickman’s situation and looking up to ensure he is Ok and out of harm’s way. Talk about how the Derrickman, when he 85-feet overhead can be included in your team’s job safety planning (JSA).

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.

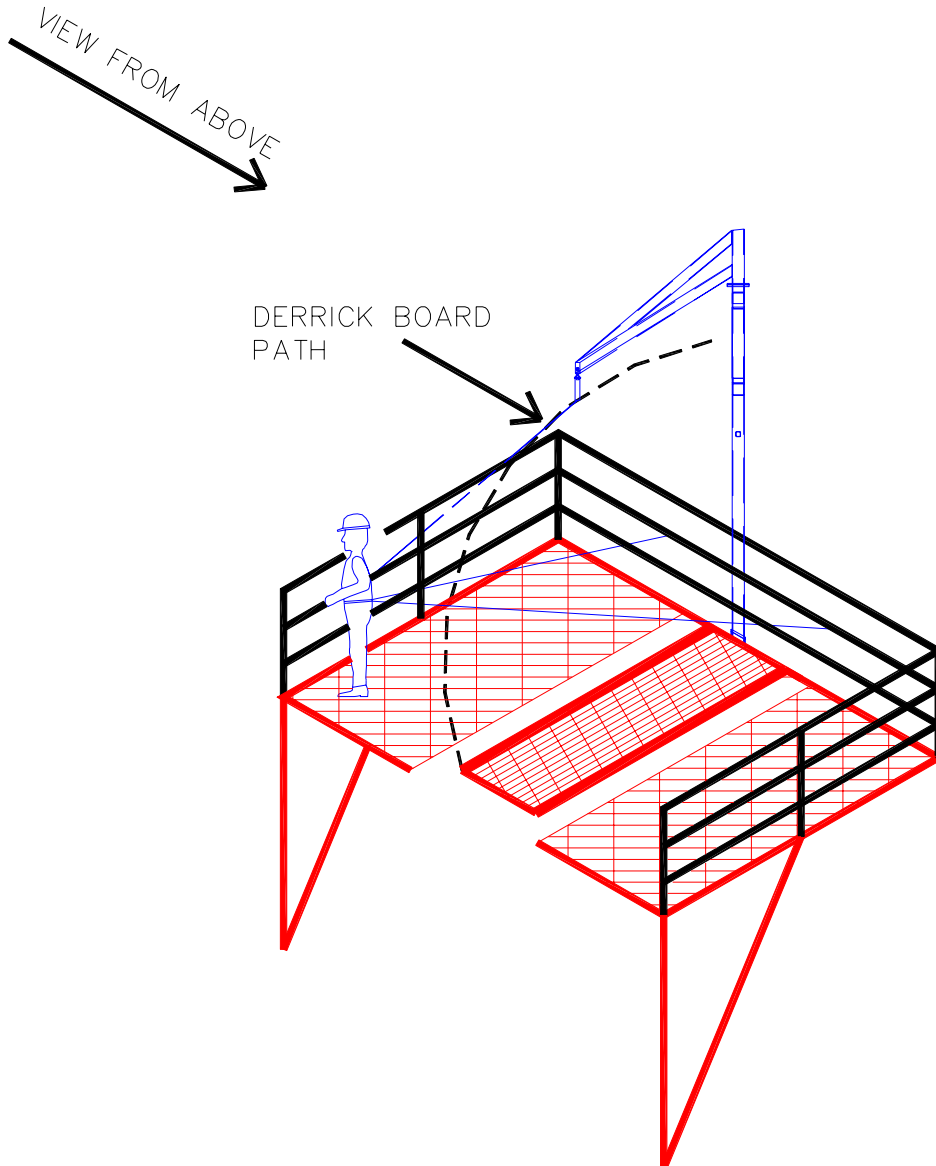
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View of derrick board and retractable safety line attachment involved in the incident.



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