



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 – 48

LACK OF STAIRWAY LIGHTING RESULTS IN FALL

WHAT HAPPENED:

At 5:05 a.m. the employee was going from the top deck of the platform to the well bay. As he was walking down the steps to the well bay he slipped on one of the steps fell backward and struck the back of his neck on one of the upper steps. The platform was unmanned, so there was no lighting on the platform aside from the corner beacon lights.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- There was no lighting on the platform.
- The employee did not bring a flashlight so he could better see where he was going.
- The employee lost his footing while descending the stairs.
- The lighting from the sub-structure of the rig did not light up the lower decks of the platform.
- The Job Safety Analysis did not include the lighting hazard.

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

- The Job Safety Analysis was revised to include the hazard of inadequate lighting on the platform.
- Portable lights were rigged up at the top of the stairway.
- The company's policies on stairway safety and proper use of handrails were discussed at the pre-tour safety meetings for both crews.

Instructed operations personnel that prior to performing any work on a new location Rig Supervisors must ensure that adequate lighting is provided everywhere employees are working as well as stairs and passageways.

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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