



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 98-12

Cutting Drilling Line

WHAT HAPPENED:

A rig worker was in the process of cutting drilling line. The 500-ton blocks had been hung on the off-driller side of the derrick with a 7/8" wire rope loop secured with four U-bolt clamps. As the worker pulled drilling line off the drum, the U-bolt clamps on the wire rope look slipped. The blocks fell about 3-1/2" causing the worker to be thrown toward the drum. He struck the equipment in the drum area and received multiple serious injuries.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

The contractor involved issued the following preventive action plan.

1. All block hanging attachments should be inspected immediately.
2. Wire rope loops secured with wire rope clamps are not acceptable for this practice.
3. Where the top opening of the blocks will allow, and appropriately-sized threaded shackle (clevis) should be used.
4. If the block opening does not accommodate a shackle, a pre-fabricated wire rope sling of appropriate size should be used.
5. The pre-fabricated wire rope sling should be attached to the blocks in a vertical basket hitch configuration. The vertical basket hitch should be attached to the hanging line with shackles.
6. The block hanging line should be inspected to verify that it and all attachments are in good condition and sized appropriately.
7. Operations and safety management should joint consult their wire rope distributor to determine that hanging lines, shackles, slings and any other attachments are correctly sized.

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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