



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 00-02

## UNCONTROLLED RELEASE OF ANCHOR CHAIN WHILE MOORED ON LOCATION

### WHAT HAPPENED:

The Anchor Chain was accidentally released during the removal of the brake bands.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

1. Uncontrolled release of the Anchor Chain resulted from accidentally activating the emergency release lever during removal of the brake bands.
2. The release mechanism was not isolated or protected while under maintenance.
3. There were no formal procedures for changing brake bands.
4. Planned maintenance on the control console was incomplete.
5. Job Safety Analysis (JSA) and Permit to Work procedures were not fully implemented and the task did not appear to have been planned effectively.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

1. A formal procedure for removing the brake bands should be written using input from the winch manufacturer. This procedure should detail safety precautions to be taken including isolation and JSA review.
2. All personnel involved by the operation should review the JSA for the job prior to performing the task.
3. The requirements of the Permit to Work system regarding isolation of emergency systems should be disseminated to all personnel and highlighted during employee orientation.
4. JSA/Toolbox meetings should be effectively organized, planned and documented as per the procedure.
5. Emergency Chain Release valves should be inspected to ensure that the locking mechanism fitted is functional. Any defects should be corrected immediately.

**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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