



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 08 – 28

EMPLOYEE'S ARM FRACTURED WHILE USING PULL BACK ROPE

WHAT HAPPENED:

The crew was tripping out of the hole. The derrick man had wrapped the pull back rope around his arm to assist with pulling the drill collar back. The derrick man lost control of the collar and was unable to release the rope secured around his arm. His arm was pulled around the drill collar and severely fractured in several places.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

- The board communication system was not functional at the time of the incident and there was no verbal communication between the derrickman and the driller.
- The driller and other employees on the rig floor were apparently not aware of the derrickman's activities.
- The derrickman had the pull back rope wrapped around his arm and could not release it.
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CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- Instructed the Rig Managers to ensure that the communication systems should be maintained in proper working order.
- Instructed rig personnel that the pull back rope should **never** be secured around the hand, arm or other part of the body.
- Instructed employees working on the rig floor during trips or any time personnel are in the derrick that they should assist the driller in monitoring the derrickman's activities.
- Instructed rig personnel to never stand on or in a coil of rope or line which is moving. These hazards are present while operating the cathead line and during rig up operations.
- Instructed rig personnel that under no circumstances shall a person wrap **ANY** rope, wire line or cable around their hand, arm or other body part.
- Instructed derrickmen that they shall use the mule line or pull back hoist whenever practical to limit the use of the pull back rope.
- Employees were instructed of other potential activities where this type injury could occur such as holding a tag line. Being unable to release the tag line could pull a person off a platform or into harms way.

(IADC Note: check IADC Alert 08-24)

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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