

Fatal Alert

May 15, 2013

While a 4 man crew conducted routine well service operations a man was injured and another killed. During normal rig activities a vacuum truck arrived on site and the vacuum truck operator was allowed to perform activities relating to cleaning out the cellar of the well. One rig hand was assigned to assist the vacuum truck operator and allowed to enter the area below the rig floor while the rig's main hoisting equipment was in operation. While the rig hand was under the rig floor, the brakes of the wire rope drum relating to the blocks failed and the blocks free fell to and through the rig floor. The blocks struck and injured one rig hand on the rig floor. The blocks continued to travel through the rig floor and struck the rig hand who was under the rig floor.

Significant Findings:

- The rig's main hoist equipment's brakes were not adequately inspected and maintained.
- The rig's Operator did not adequately recognize the risks/hazards associated with not properly inspecting and maintaining the rig's main hoisting equipment's brakes.
- The rig's operator did not adequately recognize the need to keep rig hands from entering the area below the rig floor while the rig main hoisting equipment was in operation.

Recommendations:

- Inform all employees on the facts and circumstances surrounding this fatal incident.
- Ensure that pre-tour safety meetings are being conducted to discuss the work to be performed, identifying the potential safety hazards and implementing safe work procedures to control hazards.
- Ensure maintenance, inspections and repairs, are being completed by a qualified person, utilizing acceptable engineering practices, and using the appropriate replacement materials meeting Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) specifications or equivalent.
- Ensure the operator is adequately trained, competent, and has a full understanding of all hazards associated with precautions needing to be taken when operating a Servicing Rig.
- Create zero tolerance policies as they apply to site safety. Particularly when workers are exposed to a suspended load, the operator shall always remain at the controls.