

FATAL ALERT

June 23, 2008

On June 23rd, 2008 a rig hand was fatally injured when he was struck by a non magnetic drill collar (NMDC), while handling the NMDC on the catwalk during a lay procedure. Prior to the accident the Driller had placed the NMDC in the mouse hole and had indicated to the crew that they would lay the NMDC down on the ground level pipe rack at a later time. While the Driller was talking to other individuals on the rig floor, the Motorman along with a Floor Hand hoisted the drill collar out of the mouse hole, using a nylon sling rather than a lifting sub, and took it down the beaver slide and onto the catwalk. After getting the NMDC clear of the mouse hole and down the beaver slide, with one end resting on the catwalk, the Motorman went down the beaver slide stairs and onto the catwalk. The Motorman then began pulling on the bottom on the NMDC to get it to slide down the beaver slide and onto the catwalk. While the Motorman was pulling on the NMDC, the drill collar came out of the nylon sling and fell onto the beaver slide and catwalk causing it to bounce down the beaver slide and struck the Motorman on the catwalk.

Significant Factors

- The Driller did not notice the rig hands hoisting the drill collar from the mouse hole.
- The Motorman was not using a lifting sub to hoist the NMDC.
- The Motorman was using a damaged nylon sling instead of a lifting sub.
- Drilling crew only had one lifting sub.
- The Motorman was warned by co-workers that the sling would not work.
- The Motorman disagreed, indicating he had done this before and it would work, and proceeded with the hoisting process.

Recommendations

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal mishap.
- Train employees on the Rules and Regulations for Oil and Gas Drilling, Servicing and Special Servicing.
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures or a Job Safety Analysis prior to performing work/tasks
- Ensure all employees on site have been briefed and understand the work they are going to be performing.
- Ensure all employees are trained to recognize the hazards applicable to their job/task.
- Reemphasize employee's responsibility/authority to stop unsafe procedures.
- Employees should be trained to understand their responsibility to listen to a person who is attempting to stop a task they feel is unsafe.
- Employer should conduct routine audits of the work-site to ensure job safety.