



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 00-31

DRIFT DROPPED FROM DERRICK

WHAT HAPPENED:

The rig crew was drifting 4 ½" tubing while tripping in the hole. While on the board, the derrickman inadvertently dropped the drift and it hit the rig floor.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The rig team looked at the system they were using to handle the drift and decided to install a step-up near the back of the board. Before the drift is dropped into the pipe, the derrickman leans the stand in the alley-way to the back of the board. He then steps up on the step and inserts the drift. There is still the risk that the derrickman may inadvertently drop the drift when he retrieves it from the elevator and carries it to the back of the board.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

The **pre-job safety** meeting identified the potential hazard of the drift being dropped. Also during the hazard analysis for this job, the crew had the foresight to address the "what if" possibility of someone walking onto the floor during the drift handling process.

- The rig addressed the process they were using to install the drift in the tubing. This incident is a good example where use of the pre-job safety meeting prevented the occurrence of a potentially severe injury.
- They identified the energy source (gravity) and took steps to control that hazard.
- The floor was cleared each time while the derrickman was handling the drift rabbit.
- The floor access stairs were secured to prevent someone from walking onto the rig floor and into the hazardous area.

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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