



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 00-21

## NEAR MISS – CROWNOUT

### WHAT HAPPENED:

While pulling the bottom hole assembly out of the hole, an assistant driller failed to note the length of the BHA stand and ran into the crown, shattering the wooden sills. Pieces of the wooden sills rested on top of the blocks and did not fall. The Crown Protection Device (CPD) failed to engage the brake in time to avoid contact with the crown sills.

The potential for serious injury and damage was very high; fortunately, no injuries or serious equipment damage occurred.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

Due to a problem with the Crown Protection Device (CPD) engaging prematurely, the driller had the mechanic shorten the toggle on the device. Operation was resumed without checking the position and function of the CPD. When the Assistant Driller took over operating the drawworks, he failed to ask the driller if the CPD was working properly or check its operation himself. Root causes were not following the company's **Management Of Change procedures (MOC)** and **lack of communications**. The Assistant Driller was not aware of location of blocks when hoisting BHA.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Good communication is essential in avoiding hazards.
- Company Management of Change procedures must be followed.
- A company wide written procedure for operation and resetting of the Crown Protection Device (CPD) should be developed and these procedures followed to ensure that personnel and equipment are protected at all times.
- Crown saver sills are in place to add a margin of safety when approaching the crown in a slow controlled manner with the blocks. To prevent wooden pieces from falling should the blocks come in contact with the sills, metal mesh (expanded metal) should be placed over the crown saver sills.
- As with any activity on the rig, each person involved has the responsibility to stop the operation if the situation is perceived to be hazardous and then they should assist in finding a solution to the problem.
- With regard to this situation with the CPD, the driller, mechanic, floorhands and the rig manager shared in the responsibility to challenge the safety of this operation.
- Rig operators must always be aware of the location of the blocks (top drive) when hoisting BHA or drill pipe.

**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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