ENERGY SAFETY CANADA

SAFETY ALERT

ISSUE # 07-2021

Dropped Heavyweight Drill Pipe

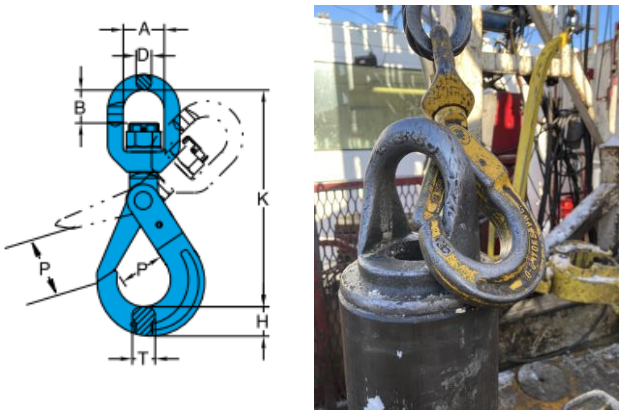
POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCIDENT

Description:

Two floorhands were using the tugger to pick up a joint of heavyweight drill pipe (HWDP). One worker operated the controls lifting the joint, slowing down as the bottom crested the V-door to prevent swing. Another worker used his arm to guide the HWDP to the mousehole as it was raised above the floor and as he was about to remove the thread protector, the HWDP dropped to the floor and began to fall toward the driller's controls. The top of the pipe struck the doghouse and bounced bottom up, throwing the worker into the steam manifold. As the pipe slid down the doghouse, it fell through the railing, and across the mud tanks missing a third worker. The HWDP smashed through the door of the track hoe and the operator threw himself to the front of the cab to avoid being struck.

What Went Wrong:

- The self-locking hook was not properly connected to nubbin, possibly due to side loading.
- The drill pipe traveled over 20 meters from well center to penetrate the cab of the track hoe.



Functional diagram of a safety hook & the hook in use

Final position of the HWDP

Post incident - safety hook was found open

Actions Taken/Recommendations:

- The self-locking hook was removed from service and sent for testing. It passed inspection with no evidence of excessive wear, damage or manufacturers defects. It appears to have been fully functional at the time of testing and inspection.
- Tension should be placed on the tugger line when taking up slack and positioning the self-locking hook, so it holds the weight in the throat.
- There should be no equipment or cables that could become entangled while the rotary is engaged when the driller's controls are unattended.
- When attaching the self-locking hook to the nubbin, ensure it is closed and latched.

Industry Resources:

Life Saving Rule | Line of Fire

Watch the video.

- Position yourself and others to avoid dropped objects.
- Establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones.
- Take action to secure loose objects.

Energy Safety Canada Resources:

- Dropped Objects Best Practice
- Dropped Objects Microlearning Video
- Energy Safety Canada has partnered with DROPS (DropsOnline.org) in the establishment of a Canadian Chapter. To become a member, review the Terms of Reference on the Canadian Chapter DROPS website and send an email to express your interest.

Help industry by sharing lessons learned from an incident. Submit your Safety Alert.