



Fall From Derrick Results In Fatality

SAFETY ALERT

ISSUE #: 01-2015

Enform

Enform is the health and safety association for Canada's upstream oil and gas industry. We provide leading health and safety training, programs and services, touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers each year. We are dedicated to the continuous improvement of safety with a vision of eliminating work-related incidents or injuries in the upstream oil and gas industry.

An Industry Product

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Description of Incident

During routine rig operations racking heavy weight drill pipe and drill collars, the derrick man proceeded up to the derrick board using the climbing self-retracting lifeline (SRL), which is anchored directly above the climbing ladder.

Upon reaching the derrick board, the normal procedure is to attach to the monkey board SRL, which is anchored directly above and behind the usual working position, then detach the climbing SRL from the harness. The derrick man is then required to tie-off using a lanyard to the tie point at the back of the monkey board. In this instance, the derrick man did not tie-off with the lanyard, and instead of transferring to the monkey board SRL he remained attached to the climbing SRL.

While manipulating the drill collar into its new position, it is believed the climbing SRL was caught by the descending top drive, pulling the derrick man off the derrick board. The SRL was severed, again believed to be by the top drive, causing the derrick man to fall to the rig floor, resulting in fatal injuries.

	<p>Example of a worker using the climbing self-retracting lifeline (SRL).</p>
	<p>Once on the derrick board, workers should attach to the monkey board SRL (and then detach the climbing SRL from the harness).</p>

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What Caused It

- The derrick man did not follow procedure to secure to the derrick SRL and then unsecure the climbing SRL before working on the derrick board.
- Other workers may have witnessed the climbing SRL being used by the derrick man while he was working on the monkey board, but there was no intervention to correct the situation.

Corrective/Preventive Actions

Investigation provided the following recommendations:

- Ensure that all required personal protective equipment is being used properly as per design and required procedures at all times.
- Ensure that all procedures are followed. If there is a change of scope or working conditions, the worker must consider the safety implications and apply appropriate safety procedures.

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