

# Snatch block sheave fall

Safety alert Issue #: 10-2015

#### **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

This document was developed by industry for industry. Working collaboratively, Enform works with the submitting organization representative in developing these documents to improve the industry's hazard awareness. Canada's leading oil and gas industry trade associations support the use of shared information to help companies of all sizes improve performance.

#### Disclaimer

This document is intended to be flexible in application and provide guidance to users rather than act as a prescriptive solution. Recognizing that one solution is not appropriate for all users and situations, it presents accepted guidance that generally apply to all situations. While Enform believes that the information contained herein is reliable under the conditions and subject to the limitations set out, Enform does not guarantee its accuracy. The use of this document or any information contained will be at the user's sole risk, regardless of any fault or negligence of Enform and the submitting organization.

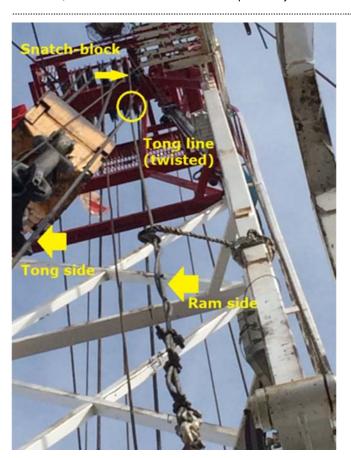
#### Copyright/right to reproduce

Copyright for this document is held by Enform, 2015. All rights reserved. Enform encourages the copying, reproduction and distribution of this document to promote health and safety in the workplace, provided that Enform is acknowledged. However, no part of this publication may be copied, reproduced or distributed for profit or other commercial enterprise, nor may any part be incorporated into any other publication, without written permission of Enform.

For more information on this event, please contact: safety@enform.ca

## **Description of incident:**

While making tubing connection on a service rig the floorhand noticed the tongs were jerking. He looked up to the crown of the rig and noticed that the snatch block lines were twisted. Work was stopped, the lines untwisted and an inspection of the snatch block was conducted with no external damage noted. Work proceeded until on the following day, when pulling out of the hole, the tongs dropped approximately 1 foot. The floorhand heard a loud bang and the sheave from the snatch block landed approximately 3-4 feet away from his standing position on the rig floor. An inspection of the snatch block identified damage and evidence of side loading. Earlier the rig manager was provided with the 1-tonne snatch block and instructed to use it. The snatch block was rated for one tonne, where an 8-tonne had been used previously based on the calculated loads.



Re-enactment photo



Sheave that fell to rig floor



Damage to snatch block, evidence of side loading

By industry, for industry















### What caused it?

There was excessive load on the snatch block.

# **Contributing factors included:**

- Communication between the rig manager and the field superintendent was inadequate.
- The rig manager did not conduct load calculations.
- Established change processes were not managed properly.
- The self-study training on rigging and slinging the rig manager had completed was not adequate, resulting in a lack of competence.

### **Corrective/preventative actions:**

- Load calculations must be performed and documented prior to installing rigging and hoisting equipment.
- Established change processes must be managed diligently.
- Your supervisor should be contacted immediately if you are unsure of manufacturer's specifications.
- It is everyone's responsibility to ask questions and refuse work that is unsafe.













