

Safety Alert

Issue # 06-2025

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Slimhole Tubing String – Dropped Object

What Happened?

Workers pulled 73 mm production tubing from the well. After changing the rams, slip dies and elevators, the rams were pressure tested. Rental slimhole elevators were used to remove the tubing hanger and pup joint for a sizing check. After tallying the pipes and inspecting the work spool, they began running 60.3 mm tubing with slimhole collars back into the well.

During this process, the Rig Manager (Push) was on the rig floor and made the first latch on the slimhole tubing string. When the driller lifted the joint from the pipe trailer, it slipped through the elevator, fell to the rig floor and struck the Push on the head and back, resulting in serious injuries.

Why Did it Happen?

Multiple factors contributed to this incident. Despite the Well Site Supervisor's (WSS) request for correctly-sized elevators, the wrong size was delivered.

The following gaps identified during the investigation help explain why this hazard went unnoticed:

- Delivery paperwork confirmed the correct elevators; however, Floor Hands placed them on the skate without further verification.
- The Push instructed the Lease Hand to retrieve the pup joint (6 feet) and tubing hanger for the function test. The lease hand mistakenly selected a pup joint with a regular collar (3.1") instead of a slimhole collar (2.9").
- The rig crew conducted the function test using the incorrect collar size. The test was deemed successful but did not reflect actual operating conditions.

Industry Feedback

Industry feedback indicates that dropped tubing joints occur more frequently than expected. Differences between elevator types present a hazard and highlight an opportunity to strengthen well servicing training.



Slimhole Elevator



Pup joint with a Slimhole collar (2.9").



Pup joint with a regular collar (3.1").

What Did They Learn?

- Formalize procedures for the test, clearly defining roles and responsibilities of the WSS and Push, who now must personally witness and document test completion.
- Train all personnel on how to identify different slips and slimhole collars.
- Implement routine management verification to ensure procedures are followed.

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Ask Yourself and Your Crew

- How could a similar incident occur at your location?
- Are your pre-use equipment inspections thorough and focused on the most critical components?
- Where in your operations could a single component failure lead to a serious incident?
- Are you or your crew ever in the line of fire during routine tasks?

Industry Resources

Life Saving Rule | Line of Fire



- Position yourself to avoid moving objects, vehicles, pressure releases and dropped objects.
- Establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones.
- Take action to secure loose objects and report potential dropped objects.

Program | Dropped Objects

- Creating a company-wide dropped objects prevention program presents a significant opportunity to prevent serious injuries and incidents.
- [Dropped Objects Program](#)

Submit Your Safety Alert

Help industry by sharing lessons learned from an incident. [Submit your Safety Alert.](#)

Share and Collaborate

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) works collaboratively with industry to share information aimed at helping companies of all sizes improve safe work performance.

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