Learning Advisory

HIPO Dropped Blocks During Rig Operations

Approved for Internal and Contractor Distribution

bpx energy

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Summary:

On February 7, 2025, the rig crew latched and made up the first stand of work string out of the derrick. The relief operator lifted the load, started lowering the work string downhole too fast and attempted to slow down the load with the drum brakes but could not stop the load as expected. The load came to rest on top of the slips and the blocks continued down until resting on the rig floor handrail. This was classified as a HIPO, as the floor hands were in the line of fire area of the blocks.

Key Learnings:

Human Factors:

- Individuals performing the task must have a thorough understanding of all components of the system being operated.
- The railing system on the floor was impeding the proper operation of the brake handle and was a known hazard that had not been addressed.
- If individuals exhibit potentially unsafe behavior, apply Stop Work Authority and engage in discussions to assess the situation or provide additional training if necessary.

Standard Operating Procedures and Training:

- The maintenance of rig brake systems requires ongoing diligence due to the complexity and number of their components. It is essential to conduct training and complete daily operational checklists prior to each use.
- The operator's platform should have uninterrupted movement of the brake handle.
- Training of all rig operators needs to be consistent and updated as applicable.

Best Practices:

Strengthen Procedural Clarity and Operational Verification:

- Maintain updates and tailor all SOPs to the equipment being operated.
- Identify both initial and refresher training needs, ensure completion of training activities, and incorporate a proficiency assessment.
- The verification of checklists is essential to confirm that all components are functioning correctly prior to use.

Risk Assessments:

- All modifications to system components must undergo a thorough risk assessment to verify that no new risks are introduced.

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Learning Advisor: Rania Pommer

Point of Contact: Nolan Barratt

Figures:



Figure 1: Dropped Blocks



Figure 2: Railing obstruction of brake handle

Applicable Life-Saving Rules, Process Safety Fundamentals, and Safety Leadership Principles:



Line of Fire



Watch for Weak Signals



Recognize Change

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