Lessons from a Fatal Accident - A Case Study

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BRIEF OF THE ACCIDENT

TITLE: Fatal accident during rig up operation in a Workover Rig

DATE & TIME: 21st November, 2016; 01.30 pm

One person got seriously injured during rig up operation in a workover rig when the travelling block fell down hitting his back side. The injured was taken to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.
WHAT HAPPENED?

- The mast rig up operation was in progress.
- The anchoring sling of the travelling block was not tied.
- The block was sliding, which was prevented by tightening the casing lines.
- On completion of lower mast rig up, tie bolts were to be fitted.
- The person was fitting the tie bolt when travelling block fell down, hitting the back side of the person.
- The victim was immediately sent to the hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries.
Rig up operation at the new location was in progress
DIC instructed to tie the Travelling block to mast using sling
Mast Rig up operation started
After 40-50% lifting of Mast, DIC observed hydraulic pressure shoot up and casing lines became tight.
Full lower mast was raised
TIE Bolts were to be fitted
Travelling Block fell on the derrick floor
Sling was tied to both sides of the mast structure (above the double board)
No sling was observed on the Travelling block hook
The picture showing the position of the deceased person at the time of incident
POSSIBLE CAUSES OF THE ACCIDENT

- The travelling block was not tied with sling as per procedure.
- Indications of casing line tightening repeatedly and travelling block sliding while raising the half mast were either ignored or not visualized.
- The brake lever was fiddled (released) without ensuring that the travelling block is held by the sling tied to the mast structure and tie bolt was fully tightened.
- Tightening of the tie bolts could have been done from outside the mast using a ladder instead of entering inside the structure.
- Lack of overall supervision and coordination.
LEARNINGS

- Checklist and SOP for the field operations must be followed meticulously.
- Early signal and symptom of failure in the system should not be ignored/neglected.
- Team work with adequate supervision & co-ordination
- Complacency in all the tasks/activities should be avoided.
THANK YOU
ANY QUESTIONS ?