Title: Fatal Fall
Location: Drilling Rig
Activity Type (Result/outcome): Fatality

What happened:
A derrick man was severely injured climbing down from the monkey board after completion of tripping out operation. The pulley of the ladder climbing assist system failed and the derrick man fell from 65 feet height w.r.t. derrick floor.

He was rushed to the hospital where he died.

What caused it:

- A Self-Retracting-Lifeline [SRL] affixed on the mast of the drilling rig and designed to be used while climbing the ladder was available for use, but was not used by derrick man while going up the ladder. Thus, it was not available for him to use when he came down the ladder.
- The McKissick Hay Fork Pulley with swivel eye, used with a ladder climbing assist system, failed while being used by the derrick man.
- At the time of the accident, a 1/2” wire rope was being used on the pulley instead of the 1 ¼” manila rope as recommended by the OEM.
- Adequate inspections and preventative maintenance were not performed on the McKissick Hay Fork Pulley with swivel eye pulley associated with the ladder climbing assist system.

Corrective actions:

- Ensure, any person climbing the derrick ladder has proper fall protection at all times.
- Pre-work safety meetings should be conducted to discuss work to be performed (tripping the hole) and ensure all personal protective equipment (harness, lanyard, fall protection, etc.) is used.
- Ensure that the ladder climbing assist system is rigged by a qualified person.
- Components of ladder climbing assist system should be properly maintained as per manufacturers’ recommendations.

It is provided for information purpose. This information should be evaluated to determine if it is applicable in your operations, to avoid reoccurrence of such incidents.