

# Oil Industry Safety Directorate

## Safety Alert

E&P (Onland)

No. 13/04

Title: **Dropped Stands of Drill Pipe result in incidents**

Location: **Drilling Rig**

Activity Type

(Result/outcome): **Injury**

### What happened:

Following three incidents were reported due to dropped stands of drill pipe:

- 1 During running in drill pipe into the hole, the derrick man missed latching a stand of 5" drill pipe stand and it was dropped across the derrick. In an effort to return the stand to the derrick man, the floor crew used the driller's side rig floor winch. They wrapped the winch's cable around the stand, anchored it to the rig floor, near the V-door opening and began to pull it back to the derrick man. As the stand was being pulled back toward the derrick man, it slid or lifted up and went out the V-door, falling on the catwalk below.
- 2 On another rig while the rig floor winch line was being used to pull back a stand, the rig floor crew gathered around the stand to push it toward the derrick man. As the winch operator operated the winch to pull on the stand, the pin end of the stand was lifted off the rig floor by the winch cable. The winch operator slacked off the line quickly to avoid lifting it further. The stand of pipe came down on the foot of a rig floor crewman just behind his steel toe, cutting off three toes.
- 3 In third case while the winch line was pulling the dropped stand back, the line tension caused the stand to whip back striking the tip of the derrick man's board. The derrick board flipped up and struck the derrick man's leg.

### What caused it:

- The procedure for pulling back a dropped stand was inadequate.
- No JSA had been performed to define the hazards of the task.
- No consideration was given to the movement of the pin end of the stand of drill pipe.

### Corrective actions:

- Before attempting to pull back a dropped stand, the associated hazards must be discussed.
- To prevent the bottom of the stand from moving, tie off the bottom of the stand to other stands in the derrick with a chain.
- Place the winch line properly, so that the top of the stand will be moved towards the board rather than the entire stand being lifted up.
- Rig floor personnel should not be present anywhere near the pin end of the stand when the winch is operated to pull the stand back to the board.

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.