

OIL INDUSTRY SAFETY DIRECTORATE  
NOIDA

SAFETY ALERT

E&P (Onland)

No. 15/06

Title:                    Fatality during sucker rod pulling out

Location:                Rig Floor, Work-over Rig

Activity Type:          Backing off stuck up sucker rod

(Result/outcome): **Fatality**

***What happened?***

During pulling out 7/8" sucker rod from a well, sucker rod string got stuck. While Backing off 7/8" stuck sucker rod with a pipe wrench and a 3½" tubing of approx. 3 feet in length as lever, the lever got slipped and hit the LH side of the face of derrick-man and the second derrick-man got hurt on his right side neck below the ear and fell unconscious on rig floor. The injured persons were immediately shifted to hospital where the second derrick-man was found to be brought dead by doctors.

***What Caused It?***

1. After taking about 6 to 7 rounds, back torque was developed in the sucker rod string due to which lever slipped and pipe wrench hit the derrick-man which resulted in fatality. The helmet was dislodged from the victim's head during the incident and fell on derrick floor.
2. Non adherence to SOP.
3. Proper tools viz. pair of pipe wrench / tongs of suitable size were not used for the backing off operation. The 3½"x3' tubular used as lever was found oversized to tightly hold the wrench which might have been slipped due to excessive back torque.
4. Improper tool box talk: Tool box talk, specific to the operation, was not done to ensure safety during operation.

***Corrective Actions:***

1. A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for sucker rod pulling out operation should be developed and all the operational workers to work accordingly.
2. The Job Safety Analysis (JSA) should be done prior to specialized critical operations.
3. The pair of pipe wrench / tongs of adequate size should be used where excessive torque is anticipated.

*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.*