E&P (Offshore) No. 03/19
Title: Draw Works Brake failure at a Drilling Site
Location: Rig Floor and Moon Pool Area
Activity Type: Pulling out of Subsea Blow Out Preventer
Result/outcome: Major accident

What Happened?

At an Offshore rig working in 749m water depth, during the process of pulling out of subsea BOP stack there was a malfunctioning of Draw Works Brakes which resulted in free fall of Travelling Block on to the Rig Floor.

Operations were suspended and the area was barricaded. Moon pool area was also cordoned off. A visual inspection of the rig floor and Moon Pool area showed damage to TDS, Dollies, Riser, Spider and Gimble. ROV (Remote Operated Vehicle) was deployed which showed Riser String below Slip Joint Outer Barrel at sea bed along with Subsea BOP stack.

What Caused It?

At the time of the incident, rig was ready to move from the location and the process of BOP pulling out was in progress. There was a sudden and uncontrolled descent of travelling block, probably due to failure of draw works brake. This accident caused the rig to go on downtime for more than three months.

Corrective Actions:

- Maintenance schedule of Draw Works Brake should be strictly followed.
- Eddy Current Brake should be tested for functionality prior to critical operations
- SOP should be strictly followed.

*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.*