



# Top Drive Counter Weight Falls From Derrick

## SAFETY ALERT

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### Enform

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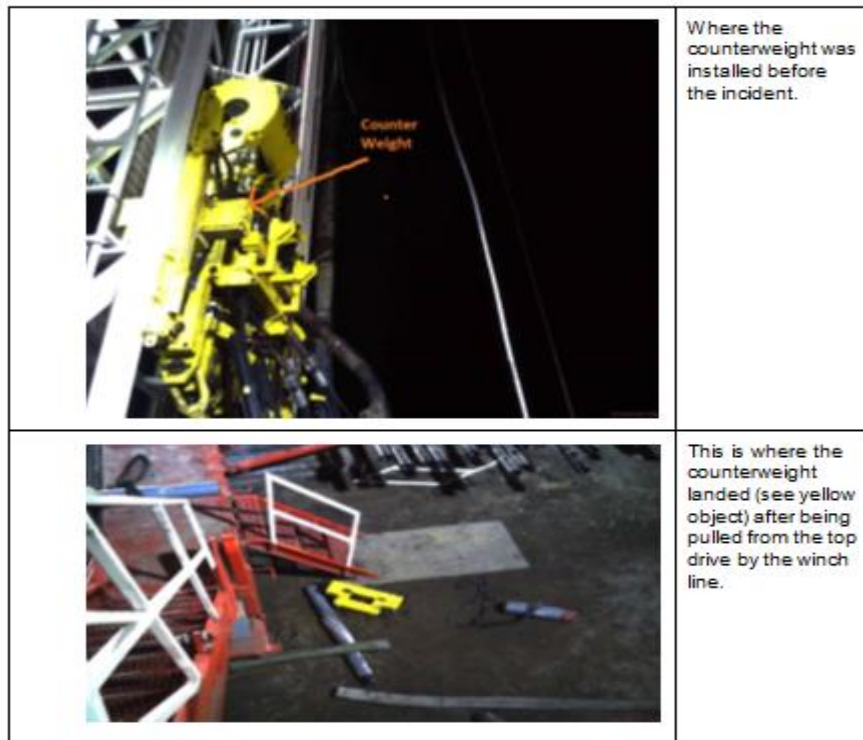
For more information on this event, please contact: [safety@enform.ca](mailto:safety@enform.ca)

### Description of Incident

The crew was preparing to lay the mud motor out the V-door. The hydraulic bails were extended and the driller began lowering the top drive. The motor hand and floor hand pushed and guided the motor out of the V-door as it was lowered. The winch snapped, violently striking the motor hand in the right shoulder; at the same time, a large piece of steel off the top drive flew past the workers and landed on the ground beside the substructure.

### What Caused It:

- The crew failed to notice that the winch line was caught on the top drive when it was parked
- The top drive was lowered to lay out the mud motor, and the winch line was caught behind the counterweight
- The service platform had been removed from the top drive at an earlier date. The platform is not designed to be a guard; however it would have prevented the winch from snagging the counterweight
- The top drive counterweight did not have secondary securement



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**Corrective/Preventive Actions:**

- Clearly identify the hazard of having the winch line snagged on anything in the derrick
- Conduct regular inspections of top drives and all other overhead equipment, and pay particular attention to secondary securement
- Consider designing/installing secondary securement devices on rigs with top drives, along with a new-style guard that prevents the winch line from coming into contact with the top drive

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