

ENFORM

SAFETY ALERT

Worker Fingers Crushed By Dump Bailer Landing Plate

Safety Alert: #30 - 2010	RELEASE DATE: December 7, 2010
Incident Type: Improper Use of Equipment	Country and Region: Canada, Alberta

Description of Incident:

- During a wireline operation, a cement dump bailer was being removed. The top three sections of a six-section bailer were removed using the wireline truck's winch. The three remaining sections were suspended in the wellbore by a bailer landing plate. This landing plate was installed on the top section of the remaining bailer sections and was set on the top of the wireline BOP's. During the operation, a miscommunication between the service rig driller and the wireline crew resulted in the blind rams being closed, flattening the suspended bailer. The blind rams were opened once the error was noticed and an attempt to pull the bailer out was done using the service rig winch line attached to the lifting handle of the bailer landing plate.
- The first attempt to raise the dump bailer failed as the flattened shape would not fit through the wireline flange located above the service rig's BOP's. The driller lowered the bailer into the wellbore and tried to raise it again through the wireline flange. When the bailer was raised a second time, it jammed in the flange causing the lifting handle to fail. When the handle broke away, the landing plate carrying the load of the bailer sections dropped down, crushing a wireline worker's fingers between the landing plate and top of the wireline BOP's. The worker went to hospital for treatment of severe injuries to three fingers.

What Caused It:

- There was inadequate communication between the driller and wireline worker in regards to the closing of the blind rams.
- The device used to raise and lower the cement dump bailer from the well is not designed for the task it was being used for and it is not rated for the overhead load.
- Workers did not recognize a task scope change and did not reassess the associated risks.
- Workers did not recognize the hazards associated with lifting the flattened bailer or the crush hazard to the workers hand in the proximity of the suspended load.
- Safe Work Procedures were inadequate for the task of lifting the bailer.

Corrective Actions:

- Lifting operations are to use only engineered approved equipment.
- Within the hazard identification process, establish tasks or operations that include clear communications as an influence of behaviour and actions.
- Emphasize worker competency verification and task scope change during hazard identification training.
- Prior to initiating operations, review specific safe work procedures for planned tasks.

CONTACT:

For more information on this event, please contact safety@enform.ca

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