

Snatch block sheave fall

Safety alert

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Enform

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An industry product

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

Description of incident:

While making tubing connection on a service rig the floorhand noticed the tongs were jerking. He looked up to the crown of the rig and noticed that the snatch block lines were twisted. Work was stopped, the lines untwisted and an inspection of the snatch block was conducted with no external damage noted. Work proceeded until on the following day, when pulling out of the hole, the tongs dropped approximately 1 foot. The floorhand heard a loud bang and the sheave from the snatch block landed approximately 3-4 feet away from his standing position on the rig floor. An inspection of the snatch block identified damage and evidence of side loading. Earlier the rig manager was provided with the 1-tonne snatch block and instructed to use it. The snatch block was rated for one tonne, where an 8-tonne had been used previously based on the calculated loads.



Re-enactment photo



Sheave that fell to rig floor



Damage to snatch block, evidence of side loading

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What caused it?

There was excessive load on the snatch block.

Contributing factors included:

- Communication between the rig manager and the field superintendent was inadequate.
- The rig manager did not conduct load calculations.
- Established change processes were not managed properly.
- The self-study training on rigging and slinging the rig manager had completed was not adequate, resulting in a lack of competence.

Corrective/preventative actions:

- Load calculations must be performed and documented prior to installing rigging and hoisting equipment.
- Established change processes must be managed diligently.
- Your supervisor should be contacted immediately if you are unsure of manufacturer's specifications.
- It is everyone's responsibility to ask questions and refuse work that is unsafe.

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