ENERGY SAFETY CANADA

SAFETY ALERT

ISSUE # 03-2022

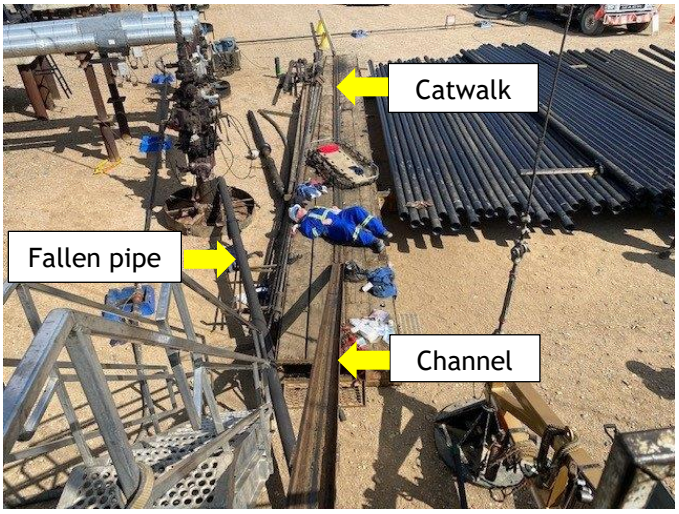
Dropped Casing Pipe Strikes Worker

Description:

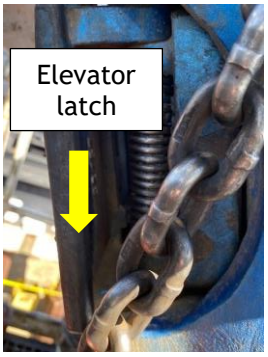
A service rig crew was lowering casing pipe (tail joint) into the channel slide when it snagged on the edge of the channel. This caused the travelling block assembly and tubing elevators to swing past the tubing tong line. When the snag released, the assembly began to swing back and, as the elevators passed the tubing tong line, a link on the chain hit the elevator latch. The elevators opened and the pipe was released, striking a worker in the face on the catwalk below. The worker was seriously injured.

What Went Wrong:

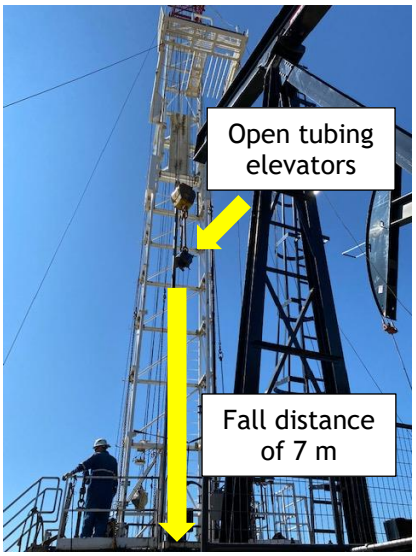
- The elevators are rated for working with casing. To remain stable, however, the casing must not move more than 15 degrees horizontally. When the snag occurred, that angle was exceeded.
- A link on the winch chain hit the latch, opening the elevators.



View from the drilling floor looking down to the catwalk and injured worker (re-enactment)



View of where the chain from the tubing tong line hit the elevator latch



View of where the pipe fell from

Actions Taken/Recommendations:

- Use side entry elevators for picking up and lowering casing to the ground.
- Use a pullback line when lowering bottom hole assembly (BHA) to the ground.
- When suspending equipment like tubing tongs, remove winch chains.
- Establish a continuous improvement team to develop a solution so workers are not in the line of fire. NOTE: The injured worker was positioned as per company policy, practices and procedures.

Energy Safety Canada Resources:

- Dropped Objects Best Practice
- Dropped Objects Microlearning Video
- Energy Safety Canada partnered with DROPS (DropsOnline.org) to establish a Canadian chapter. To become a member, review the Terms of Reference on the Canadian Chapter DROPS website and send an email to express your interest.
- Are You in the "Line of Fire?" Program

Help industry by sharing lessons learned from an incident. Submit your Safety Alert.
