

Dropped Plate running casing

What happened?

The Rig Crew were running 13 3/8" casing into the well using a Volant casing running tool.

The process included the use of wire slings to hang the single joint elevator used to lift the casing until the Volant casing running tool is stabbed and set in the casing. When the casing joint has been screwed into the joint below, the Elevator has caught on the casing and rotated with the casing resulting in the wire slings wrapping around the top drive. The slings have caught on the edge of the IBOP (inside blow out preventor) actuator plate, the force was sufficient to shear the 4 x 16mm retaining screws, allowing the 4.3kg plate to fall to the rig floor.

The sheared bolt heads have fallen at the same time as the plate. One bolt head contacted a worker at the same time the plate fell and missed the worker below.

The plate fell from approx. 14.5 meters height.

No injury occurred as a result of the incident.

Contributing factors

- The Elevator rotating with the casing rotation had previously been identified.
- This was "normalised" as may happen during the task.
- There was opportunity to raise the issue and potentially engineer the problem out. This had not occurred.
- The worker involved at the time of the incident had not been included in the Pre Job Safety Meeting to run the casing
- The worker involved at the time of the incident has not been advised of the potential risk of the elevator rotating with the casing.
- No-one on the rig floor was looking up during the operation at the time of the incident.



Plate that fell



Wire slings rotated with casing causing the plate to drop.