

Shared Learning

Critical Risk: Stored Energy



Shooting Nipple Event

The rig crew were retrieving a shooting nipple from the BOP stack and rotary table using the rig top drive, with conventional pipe elevators, and two soft slings.

During the lifting process, one of the soft slings failed.

This caused a sudden release of stored energy propelling the shooting nipple upwards through the BOP stack several meters but contained within the rotary table.

Rig floor personnel were positioned in close proximity to the rotary table.

What did we learn

During the retrieval operation, the slips were pulled in one direction, which contributed to the misalignment of the shooting nipple, this caused the lower end of the shooting nipple to shift into a cavity within the BOP stack, where it became hung up.

The existing shooting nipple retrieval process did not adequately recognize the importance of maintaining alignment during lifting operations or while handling the slips.

Engineering Control - two centralizers were fabricated and clamped round the shooting nipple to mitigate misalignment failures during this operation.

Photo: broken sling

