

DROPPED DRILL COLLAR

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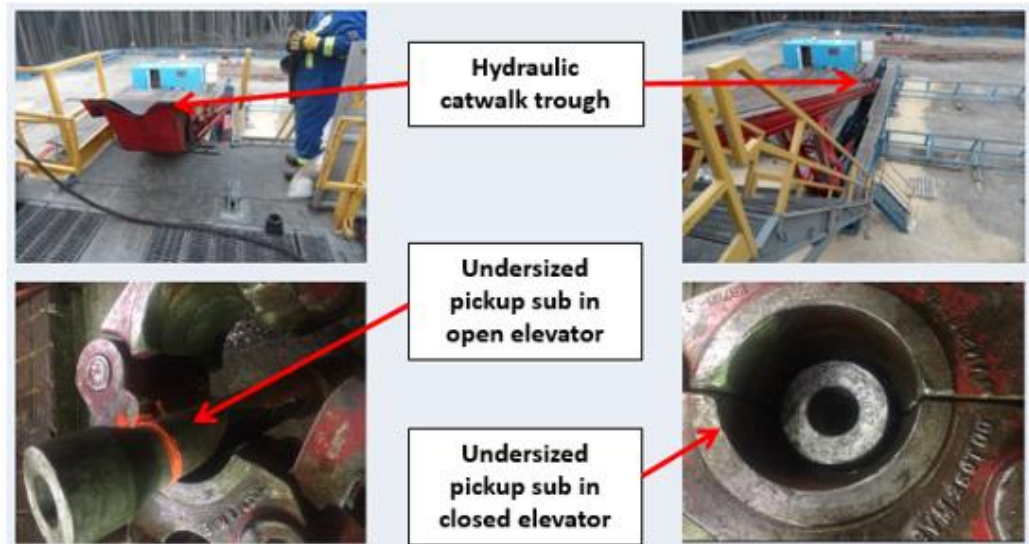
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DESCRIPTION:

On a drilling rig, a non-magnetic drill collar (NMDC) was lifted from the hydraulic catwalk with a third party pickup sub. A pickup sub is a tool that connects to other equipment and is held in the rig elevators. Normally, the top portion of the pickup sub is larger than the inside diameter of the rig elevators to prevent the pickup sub from sliding through the elevators. The elevators and pickup sub were 6-7 meters above the rig floor at approximately a 70 degree angle when the pickup sub slipped through the elevators. The non-magnetic drill collar slid and bounced out of the trough and landed halfway down the catwalk. There were no injuries.



CAUSE:

The pickup sub was undersized for the rig elevators.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- » Insufficient planning and communication between the directional driller, drilling company and wellsite supervisor
- » No one had measured the outside diameter of the pickup sub to ensure it was compatible with the inside diameter of the rig elevators
- » The hazard assessment and pre-job checklists did not include pickup sub compatibility

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- » Drilling rig, directional drillers, service providers and producers need to work collaboratively to ensure that compatible pickup subs are provided and used on site
- » Upon arrival to the drilling site, the outside diameters of pickup subs need to be measured for compatibility with the elevators
- » Contractor and service provider job safety analysis (JSAs) and pre-job checklists need to include instructions to measure pickup subs to confirm elevator compatibility