

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type:Struck by, falling object, suspended load
Weather Conditions/Time of Day: Hot, dry/Day shift
Type of Operation:Changing bales
Size of Work Crew:8
Worksite Inspection Conducted by Employer: Yes
Competent Safety Monitoring on site: No
Safety and Health Program in Effect: Yes
Training and Education for Employees: Yes
Job Title of Deceased Employee: Floor hand
Age/Sex of Deceased Employee:25/M
Time on Job:2 Years
Short Service Employee (<1 Year): No
Time at Task: 1 hour



18-foot bales dropped to the rig floor.



Braided wire rope sling showing signs of wear.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

At the time of the accident, two 18-foot, elevator bales weighing 2,600 pounds each were being lifted onto the rig floor using the air hoist. A braided wire rope sling consisting of a hook and eye was run through the eye of the bales to lift them onto the floor. As the bales were lowered to the rig floor, two employees maneuvered them into position using their hands and bodies. The bales struck the rig floor, causing the cable sling to come off resulting in the bales falling to the floor striking two employees, fatally injuring one.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

1. Employees must be kept clear of lifted and suspended loads. See OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.184(c)(9).
2. When rigging loads to be lifted with slings make sure that the sling will remain securely attached to the load throughout the entire lift. See OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.184(c)(6).
3. Use tag lines to keep workers clear and to control lifted and suspended loads.
4. When hoisting and moving the load, there should be no sudden acceleration or deceleration.
5. Ensure that all wire rope slings are inspected by a competent person for damage each day before use and additionally as conditions warrant. Damaged or defective slings must be immediately removed from service. See 29 CFR 1910.184(d).
6. Remove wire rope slings from service if they show kinking, crushing, bird caging or other damage resulting in distortion. See OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.184(f)(5)(iii).
7. Provide worker training emphasizing the following:
 - a. how to properly rig loads;
 - b. handling suspended loads;
 - c. sling inspection criteria (what to look for); and
 - d. how to identify, prevent and protect themselves against struck by, falling object, and suspended load hazards on the rig floor.

You Have a Voice in the Workplace

The *Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970* affords workers the right to a safe workplace (see OSHA's **Worker Rights** page, www.osha.gov/workers.html). Workers also have the right to file a complaint with OSHA if they believe that there are either violations of OSHA standards or serious workplace hazards.

How OSHA Can Help

For questions or to get information or advice, to report an emergency, report a fatality or catastrophe, or to file a confidential complaint, contact your nearest OSHA office, visit www.osha.gov or call our toll-free number at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877-889-5627. It's confidential.

Note: The described case was selected as being representative of improper work practices which likely contributed to a fatality from an accident. The accident prevention recommendations do not necessarily reflect the outcome of any legal aspects of the incident case. OSHA encourages your company or organization to duplicate and share this information.

More Information

Upstream oil and gas safety and health:

www.osha.gov/SLTC/oilgaswelldrilling/index.html

OSHA standards and regulations:

www.osha.gov/law-regs.html

OSHA publications:

www.osha.gov/publications

OSHA's free On-site Consultation services:

www.osha.gov/consultation

Training resources:

www.osha.gov/dte/index.html



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www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA (6742)