

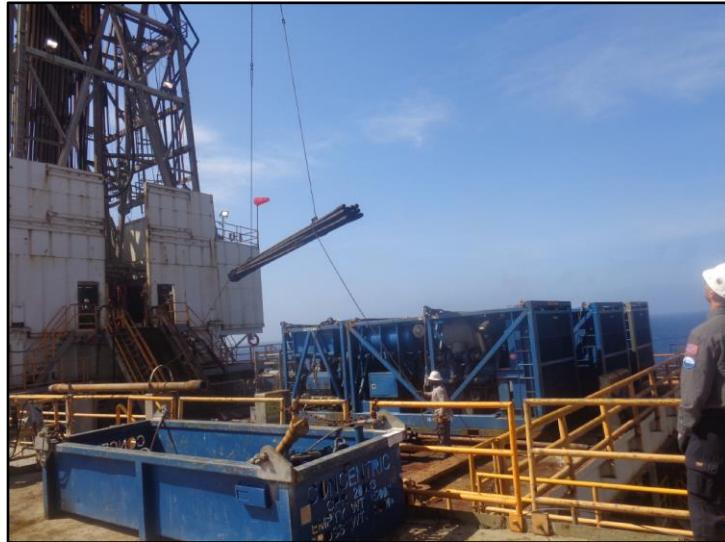
SAFETY ALERT



Safety Alert No. 426
September 14, 2021

Contact: bseepublicaffairs@bsee.gov
Phone: (800) 200-4853

BSEE Identifies Dropped Object Hazards During Risk-Based Inspections



Crane lifting a bundle of drill pipe while BSEE engineer observes the activity.

A recent data analysis pointed to risks associated with dropped objects on both production and well operations. During the time frame reviewed, multiple high potential incidents related to lifting equipment (cranes, elevators, top drives, pipe racking systems, etc.) occurred throughout the GOMR. BSEE developed a unique inspection protocol that focused on reducing the likelihood of similar incidents and compliance issues Gulf-wide. After the inspections, BSEE concluded:

- The majority of inspected production facilities did not have an implemented dropped object prevention program. However, deep-water drilling rigs did appear to have programs in place that identified and mitigated hazards associated with objects that have the potential to fall from height.
- Most of the facilities inspected had some version of a Hazard Hunt, but only a limited portion focused on the potential of dropped objects. Additionally, BSEE found little documentation for most Hazard Hunts and observed that previous Hazard Hunts did not include hazards identified by BSEE during these inspections.
- BSEE identified good practices of barrier management while lifts were taking place and in the presence of moving equipment on the rig floor. On lifts not associated with the rig floor and work above decks on production facilities, restricted access areas need improvement.

- The majority of operators did not have specific training requirements to prevent dropped objects for the offshore personnel at the facilities.
- Job Safety Analyses (JSAs) were completed; however, BSEE identified multiple gaps that need improvement. For example, JSAs were not conducted at the worksite to visually inspect for hazards; JSAs had pre-printed text without further analysis; and JSAs with lifts, e.g., Pick-up Pipe from V-door, completely negated the potential for dropped object potential.
- On those applicable facilities, offshore personnel were aware of the hazards associated with pipe handling. Most of the contractors had programs to ensure a correctly sized tubular running system.
- Multiple good practices were in place with the coordination and lifting of. These included communication with shore bases and platforms, color and shape marking labels, assessment of slings and rigging in pre-use inspections, and pre-lift inspections of cargo (container, tubulars, or other loads).
- All inspected facilities had a Management of Change (MOC) program; however, no recent MOCs (in the last six months) encompassed mounting new fixtures to existing structures or equipment, including additional secondary securing methods or installing new equipment at height.

Therefore, BSEE recommends that operators and contractors consider:

- Reviewing the inspection results and use them as a basis for conducting focused Hazard Hunts on their facilities to reduce the likelihood of similar incidents.
- Developing a Prevention of Dropped Objects strategy and action plan to identify and assess individual work areas and activities for dropped object potential.
- Establishing regular inspection frequencies for identifying any potential dropped objects and record the results within a work order register.
- Developing standalone training requirements for those individuals exposed to or undertaking the inspection of potential dropped objects.
- Evaluating all lifting JSAs to ensure they address the control of objects with the potential to fall.
- Ensuring all new equipment or structures added to their facilities trigger the MOC process to address newly introduced hazards resulting from the change.

– BSEE –

A **Safety Alert** is a tool used by BSEE to inform the offshore oil and gas industry of the circumstances surrounding a potential safety issue. It also contains recommendations that could assist avoiding potential incidents on the Outer Continental Shelf.