



MMS

PACIFIC OCS REGION

SAFETY ALERT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR/MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Notice No. 86-01 (#5)
June 20, 1986

STABBING BOARD STRUCK BY TRAVELLING BLOCK

In an accident which occurred in the Pacific OCS Region and was investigated by the U.S. Coast Guard, a casing hand aboard a semisubmersible mobile offshore drilling unit fell to his death when the travelling block struck the stabbing board on which he was standing. The stabbing board, designed to be tilted vertically to allow passage of the travelling block, was found not to have been secured in its vertical position as the travelling block was being lowered. Although the driller checked to ensure that the stabbing board was clear prior to the travelling block being lowered, the rope, by which the board was being held in the vertical position by the casing hand, slipped allowing the stabbing board to move into the path of the travelling block. The stabbing board was subsequently torn from the derrick and fell 30 feet to the drill floor taking with it the casing hand. The safety line worn by the casing hand had been attached to the stabbing board.

To prevent a recurrence of this type of accident, the drilling contractor is taking steps to--

1. Install a safety block, permanently affixed to the derrick, for the stabbing board safety line which incorporates an automatic braking action should the safety line pay out too fast.
2. Install a limit switch on the tilt portion of the stabbing board which indicates to the driller, via a light on the driller's console, if the board is in the correct vertical position.
3. Install a new stabbing board with additional counterweights to ensure that the tilt portion of the board assumes a vertical position when desired.
4. Provide mandatory discussions between the driller and subcontractor personnel working within the derrick regarding safety precautions to be followed.

Questions regarding this casualty should be directed to Commandant (G-MMI), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second St. SW., Washington D.C. 20593 (202) 426-1455.