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➔ Safety Alert

XCN SD ALT 0995

2012 SALT (01) - BULGA UG 111216 - SPREADER
BAR FAILURE

Incident Description

On the 16th December 2011 Structural Cranes were undertaking the task of relocating two 355KW electric mud pumps as part of surface gas drainage operations. During the process of lifting the first mud pump, it was raised to a height of 1.5m when a spreader bar failed, resulting in the pump end of the mud pump falling to the ground. This was not a free fall but at the rate of deformation of the spreader bar. No persons were injured in the incident and no go zones were adhered to at all times.





Consequences

Damage to spreader bar and mud pump

Investigation outcomes

1. Lack of formal lift plan detailing requirements
2. Spreader bar had been used on the incorrect end of the mud pump (63T rated spreader on 12T end of pump, 23T spreader on 25T end of pump)
3. Spreader bar was installed upside down
4. The load applied to the spreader bar was in excess of rating. Spreader bar was rated for a maximum load of 23T, points used on rigging only rated for 20T. Crane load cell was 25T.
5. The test lift could have been achieved at 0.1m height instead of the 1.5m from the ground.
6. Lack of clearly visible SWL information on the mud pump.
7. It appears that the angle of the spreader bar prior to failure exceeded 120°, the typical limit during lifts is 60°. This would have increased the compressive forces applied to the spreader bar from the chains.

Action

Investigation findings have been communicated to Structural Cranes.

Approved

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For further information

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Sustainable Development **SD Alert**