CASING JOINT UNEXPECTED RELEASE FROM LIFT NUBBIN

What happened?

Crew was lifting a 13 3/4" by 42.6 ft. long (98.58 PPF for a total weight of 4205 lbs.) joint of casing from the catwalk machine to the rotary when the end of the joint being lifted released from the lift nubbin.

The casing joint fell to the rig floor striking the lifting arm and the tongs on the way down and came to rest on the catwalk machine and casing tongs.

The nearest person was approximately 6 ft. away located in a designated safe zone. The lift nubbin remained in the single joint elevators, 33.7 ft from the floor. Nobody was injured nor in the path of the casing as it fell.

What went wrong?

Discrepancy between plan of action and casing running checklist of responsibilities to confirm and test fit stabbing guides and lift nubbins at the time of casing running operations.

Why did it happen?

Work package failed to list steps to change from 13-5/8" to 13-3/4" casing or identify the use of different size lift nubbins.

Contractor’s JSA did not identify the 13-5/8" to 13-3/4" nubbin size as a potential hazard nor did they assign clear roles and responsibilities to business parties involved.

The Thread Specialist inspector did not identify the 13-5/8" lift nubbin as the incorrect size for the 13-3/4" casing joint #3 before resuming operations.

What areas were identified for improvement?

Future work packages to highlight the change of casing sizes and assign specific responsibility for swapping out all lifting gear and removing the undersized lifting gear from the floor (error proof).

Revise JSAs to include all potential hazards and mitigations (e.g., clear color coding) when lifting equipment with multiple sizes and managing multiple sizes of lifting gear. Clear roles and responsibilities will be assigned. Additional focus and safeguards shall be added when using lifting gear with similar tolerances (i.e., 13-5/8" and 13-3/4").

Develop guidance on the different types of stopping the job, and under whose authority different types of stops can be re-started.