

COS SAFETY SHARE

WHAT WILL WE DO TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING HERE?

HUMAN ERROR PROMPTS HUMAN PERFORMANCE CORRECTION

What happened?

Picking up 4" heavy-weight drill pipe singles, Assistant Driller accidentally hit elevator unlatch button on joystick instead of float button and dropped a joint of drill pipe to the floor. When elevator unlatched, joint dropped and the pin end struck the rotary. Subsequently, the joint fell across the rotary towards the handrails at the east side of the drill floor. The box end of the joint landed approximately two feet from the handrail. Four members of the drill crew were at or near the rotary when the joint fell. The pin end of the joint fell approx. three feet to the rotary.

What went wrong?

Unlatch button requires being pressed twice for actuation/unlatch of elevator. The operator did not ensure the correct operation of the equipment.

Why did it happen?

The joystick was identifiable by sight but not by feel.

What areas were identified for improvement?

The Elevator release button on the Joy Stick was fitted with a tactile device to allow the operator to readily identify the Elevator Release Button by feel alone and to increase the operator's awareness of differentiating the control buttons.

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