

SAFETY ALERT

DATE: December 22, 1999

- SUBJECT:** Portable Torque Guide Lifting
- SERIAL NUMBERS:** 6, 8, 13, 14, 16, 18-24, 26-33, 36, 38, 40, 41, 42-49, 51-54, 56, 58-65, 67-75, 77-79, 81-95, 97-102, 104, 117, 120, 121, 125, 126, 128, 129, 131, 132, 134, 140, 143, 145
- DISCUSSION:** An incident occurred where a torque guide lifting sling parted causing the torque guide and top drive to fall out of the mast. Following proper portable torque guide lifting procedures and good maintenance practices will ensure a safe installation and removal of the top drive system.
- RECOMMENDATION:** When installing or removing a portable torque guide and top drive into a mast, the following precautions should be followed:
1. Ensure the rig weight indicator is installed and operational.
 2. Ensure the rig drilling recorder is functional and is monitoring hook load.
 3. Clear the floor area of all unnecessary equipment and personnel.
 4. Clear the area in front of the substructure (catwalk and ramp) of all personnel and non-essential equipment.
 5. Visually inspect the rig-up assembly and lifting slings prior to each use and ensure there is no wear or damage. Repair or replace if required.
 6. While hoisting with the travelling block, ensure the design load rating of the 1.75" Dia. wire rope sling is not exceeded. Do not hoist more than 20 000 lbs over the free weight of the assembly.
 7. Ensure the torque guide or top drive does not snag or hang up in the mast. This can cause the hoisting load to exceed the load rating of the equipment.
 8. Re-certify all lifting slings at the same intervals as the rig slings (or at least every 1000 working days).

INFORMATION:

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