

## Fatalities – OSHA Region 6

(OK, TX, LA, NM, ARK)

1-1-06 thru 8-17-07

### 69 Incidents

- 58 Closed Inspections (incidents provided)
- 5 Active Inspections (no data)
- 2 No inspections conducted
- 4 Either incident was not found to be job related or was an inspection resulting from a multi-employer investigation of same incident.

### Of the 58 Inspections:

- 40 Texas
- 7 Oklahoma
- 6 New Mexico
- 4 Louisiana
- 1 Arkansas

All 5 active inspections are of sites in Texas

### For the 58 Inspections - Incident related hazard:

- |                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| - Struck-by             | 22 |
| - Caught –in or between | 8  |
| - Electrocution         | 8  |
| - Crushed- by           | 7  |
| - Explosion             | 4  |
| - Fall                  | 4  |
| - Fire                  | 3  |
| - Vehicle rollover      | 1  |
| - Pinned                | 1  |

### **309755932**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 238910/Site Preparation Contractor

**Struck By Pipe:** Forklift operator was loading a piece of 14 inch(35.5cm) pipe 40 feet (12m) long onto a flatbed trailer. He got off of his forklift as attempting to strap it down when the pipe rolled over his head killing him.

### **309754273**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Pressurized Vessel's Hatch Exploded and Hit An Employee:** An employee was in the process of examining the hatch of a pressurized vessel for a suspected leak when the hatch exploded, striking the employee and propelling off the top of the vessel, which measured 10 feet high. The victim suffered head injuries and was transported to the Midland hospital where he died 6 hours later. The pressure of the vessel was not relieved or bled off before the employee attempted to examine the vessel.

### **310246236**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By:** During operations to excavate drilling mud from a docked barge, Employee #1 (victim/dump truck driver) was struck and injured by a moving excavator being operated by Employee #2 (Excavator Operator). Employee #1 had exited his dump truck and walked toward the rear of the excavator when he was struck and rolled over by the excavator track. Employee #2 was unaware that anyone was behind the excavator and continued to operate the equipment until he heard hollering/screaming by the victim and was made aware of the situation by Employee #3 (witness/dump truck driver). Employee #1 was eventually transported to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

### **309086700**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By:** At approx 1245 pm on 05/16/06, contract employees were attaching a metering run into the line from Well C7 when they heard a pop. Employee's #1 (Consultant) & 2 (Superintendent for the contract roustabouts) left the area where the metering run was being installed and went to check out Well C7. Upon their arrival at C7, a larger explosion took place, which was strong enough to sever the flow lines connected to the Christmas Tree. One of the lines struck EE #2, fatally injuring him. EE#1 was attempting to shut in the well and suffered a broken/dislocated leg and was hospitalized.

### **309084556**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Employee Caught in Drill Stem During Drilling:** At approximately 9:15am, an employee proceeded to add lubricating oil to the rotary of the water well drilling rig. The employee did not stop the rig while performing this procedure and his raincoat was caught by the near-by rotating kelly. Although there were no protrusions on the kelly, the self-adhesive properties of the raincoat caused it and the employee to be drawn into the rotating kelly.

### **309085389**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By:** At approximately 2:00 AM an operator responded to the well site to investigate why the well was not holding a steady pressure. Per the direction of the company man the operator assembled a team in preparation to shut down the well and check the condition of the choke valves. The well was shut down by closing the high pressure well (flowing at about 4000 psi) isolation valve with a remotely controlled/pneumatically operated valve and the secondary well isolation valve. These valves were located about 10 inches apart and when they both were closed a portion of pressurized gas was isolated/trapped between them. Next the team closed the line (flowing at about 1000 psi) isolation valve to ensure that gas would not back-up into the open choke valves. At this time the lines connecting the pneumatic valve and the line isolation valve were bled to atmospheric pressure. During this process two pressure sensors initiated a beeper/horn/siren to signal that the high pressure and the low pressure lines had lost pressure. Once the line was at atmospheric pressure work was commenced to pop the head from the high pressure choke valve. As employee #1 and a roustabout were removing the seat from this valve, the company man was trying to communicate to them but the beeper/horn/siren was too loud. So the company man went to the control panel and turn the switch controlling the noise. The switch activated (opened) the remotely controlled/pneumatically operated valve. This action released the compressed gas located/trapped between the high pressure well isolation valve and the pneumatically operated valve. The 4000 psi gas escaped directly to the high pressure choke valve that had been opened and the seat removed. The wrench being used to remove the valve seat was propelled into the face/head/shoulder of employee #1.

### **311121982**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Employee Struck-by Casing Bales:** Two 18 foot casing bales were picked up to the rig floor using driller's side air hoist. The hoist line utilized a braided cable sling attached to two bales. The two employees were in the process of pushing the bales into position when the bales fell, striking employees. One employee was killed and the other employee had injury to his right leg.

### **309671857**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Death By Electrocution:** The Employee was transporting a Cement Head Device suspended from a chain and secured to the forks of the rough terrain forklift vehicle. The Employee while transporting this device drove the forklift into the overhead power lines which were operating at a voltage of 12,800 volts and suspended 26 feet, 8 inches above the ground.

### **309781482**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 237120/Oil and Gas Pipeline and Related Structures Construction

**Electrocution:** Aat approximately 11 a.m., 24 yr. old man was killed when the pump jack that was being moved with a gin pole truck to a nearby location, came into contact or came near an electrical line.

### **310035555**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Employees Struck-by Pressurized Flow Line:** An employee was struck by pressurized mud and gas when he attempted to remove the bolt from the rotating head rubber gasket. The employer had been receiving gas for three days prior to the accident and had lost circulation, i.e., drilling mud was flowing into the wellbore, but there was no drilling mud returning to the drilling mud circulating tank. The employer needed to see where the fluid level was located, therefore, five stands of pipe were tripped out and on the sixth stand the rotating rubber head gasket needed to be removed when the well "kicked" during the process fatally injuring the employee.

### **310794417**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Caught in the Drive Shaft:** An employee entered the area of the rig carrier where the drive shaft extends from the rotary gear box to where the shaft connects to the rotary table under the rig floor. The employee was caught by the rotating shaft and fatally injured.

### **309542603**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Caught-in or Between:** A workover crew was servicing an oil well with a truck mounted drilling rig. After servicing the well, the crew reenergized the pumping unit so the pump could pick up prime. A short time later the tool pusher discovered that the well had not started flowing. He informed the crew that the bypass valve at the well head was probably plugged with paraffin and instructed them to loosen the valve. The employee (victim) went to retrieve a wrench next to the pumping unit and was crushed between the counterweight and the pump frame.

### **309539062**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Struck By / Crushing Hazard:** About 10:55 am, an employee of a drilling company was fatally injured when he was struck on the head by a falling A-Frame leg of a drilling derrick. The employee was in the process of guiding the brace of the A-Frame leg into place when a piece of the leg broke off where it was attached and suspended from the crane causing the leg to fall.

### **310729694**

SIC: 1382/Oil and Gas Exploration Services

NAICS: 541360/Geophysical Surveying and Mapping Services

**Caught By and Drawn Around Rotating Shaft:** At approximately 08:15am, employees #1 and the helper were preparing the seismic drilling rig and water buggy for drilling the first hole of the day. Apparently #1 had the rotary on the drilling rig running while preparing it for operation. The rotary was protruding out approximately 2 feet horizontally from the rear of the drilling rig and was approximately 5 feet above the ground with no drill bit connected to it. Evidently during the preparation process #1 reached out toward the rotating rotary and the right sleeve of #1's jacket was caught by the protruding u-bolt on the rotating rotary. The helper was on top of the water buggy and was not watching #1. When #1's right arm was caught by the rotating rotary it caused #1's body to be entangled on

and around the rotary. Employee #1 received multiple fractures and blunt trauma injuries which resulted in #1's death.

### **308591965**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Electrocution:** The decedent a service technician at the rig was assisting the Rig Manager and Motorman in repairing a flexible cable that had been damaged when a third party truck dislodged pieces of wood emplaced across the wooden service road into the rig area to protect the flexible cords. There were two cables running from the rig SCR (Silicone Control Rectifier) house, across the wooden slat drive to a trailer and transformer. One of the cords supplied 600 volts to a voltage transformer operating five trailers and a portable restroom. The other flexible cord carried 220 volts and supplied the mud engineer's trailer. The motorman, an employee plugged in and energized the incorrect circuit. The decedent was holding the a damaged portion of the flexible cable, and when it was energized, was electrocuted.

### **310895123**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck-By Oilfield Equipment:** At approximately 9:30pm, employee #1 (lead operator) of a nipple up crew and two other crew members had completed torquing the bolts on a dry hole tree at the wellhead of a natural gas well at Rig #1 and were preparing to exit from the rig's substructure. Another nipple up employee had erected a pump beneath the substructure to test the wellhead. Two employees of the drilling crew had begun rig-down activities and had lowered one of two elevator links (bail) to the ground using the air tugger. Control of the second of the two bails was lost during the lowering operation. The leg of the 1/4" chain sling broke and the bail fell, bouncing into the substructure where it struck employee #1. Employee #1 suffered a laceration to the head, blunt force trauma to the right chest and shoulder, a fractured right leg and internal injuries. Employee #1 was declared dead a few hours after arrival at the hospital.

### **308590801**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 237120/Oil and Gas Pipeline and Related Structures  
Construction

**Crushed By Falling Object:** At approximately 8:30 A.M. employee #1 a twenty-four year old heavy-haul truck driver was crushed by the mid section boom of the 80 ton Link-Belt LS 138 II crane. Employee #1 was not assigned the task to disassemble the lattice boom and took it upon himself while underneath the boom to strike the lower right steel pin first with a 18 lb. sledge hammer. Employee #1 disregarded the warnings of his co-workers and supervisor to stop and he proceeded to strike the lower left and as soon as the pin was knocked out the mid-section collapsed directly on employee #1 fatally crushing him. The lattice boom was not ready to have the pins removed as well as the boom was not supported in any way. The crane operator was in the process of tracking over to trailer #9908 in order to lay the boom on top of the trailer, which would be utilized as the support, then remove the steel pins.

### **308322015**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Struck-By:** Employee had finished his shift at 6PM; he was standing and talking on the ground when a rig handrail fell after weld failure (30') and struck him.

### **310257860**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By:** Employee was with a crew washing out FRAC tanks in a cow pasture. Truck would not pull a vacuum. Employee went onto tank catwalk and was attempting to remove the dome held in place by a band, to access the float, which appeared to be stuck in the ball seat. The dome and band were under pressure and when loosened came off and struck the victim on the head.

### **310167697**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By:** Employee 1 a drill pipe inspector was walking across the site to visually inspect drill pipe when he was struck and run over by a truck driven by employee 2 who was an employee of a drilling company.

### **310017371**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Explosion & Fire:** Approximately 1800 hours, EE #1 was operating a reverse circulation unit when oil and natural gas came up from the well through tubing hitting the top of the produce water tank and splattering all over the ground, EE #1, and the swivel diesel engine. the fumes from the natural gas entered the intake of the swivel engine causing an explosion, severely injuring EE #1. He was airlifted to UMC Burn Center, Lubbock, Texas. He succumbed to his injuries.

### **310568100**

SIC: 1311/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

NAICS: 211111/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction

**Electrocution:** The operator of a pulling unit was raising the derrick into position when the derrick came in contact with an overhead powerline. The employee was fatally injured and transported to Andrews Medical center where he was pronounced dead.

### **310223805**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Struck By An Aerial Lift:** Supervisor was walking alongside a Genie manlift. The front left tire of the manlift caught the right leg of the supervisor. The manlift ran over the supervisor. The supervisor died from injuries sustained.

### **310568209**

SIC: 1311/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

NAICS: 211111/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction

**Struck By:** The Driller age 44 years, was tripping into the hole. He had broken the Kelly down, unhooked from it and latched on to another stand and started down. The Hydromatic brake was still disengaged. He ran about 15 feet, stopped and asked a floor hand to adjust the water in the Hydromatic brake. He proceeded to let the blocks down and he could not stop them with the hand brake. Just before the elevators hit the floor, the victim turned to run away and the blocks laid over on top of him and pinned him to the floor.

### **307010611**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Electrocution:** Three employees of a construction company were on a lease operated by an Oil Company, at the request of the Oil Company to repair a pipeline the Oil Company ruptured that belonged to a Gas Company. An employee from the Gas Company was on location and

noticed a water leak across the lease at another location. The Gas Company employee took an employee from the construction company in his vehicle to where the leak was. The construction employee looked at the situation, determined the leak could be stopped by turning off a valve. When the construction employee touched the valve, he became energized, resulting in his death.

### **310017025**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By Equipment:** An employee was working on / near the line heater when the end blew off, fatality striking the employee. Prior to the incident the employee had been engaged in changing out the o-ring. The employee had to shut in the line heater by closing a valve upstream at / near the well head and closing a valve downstream in front of the separator. The valve upstream had been opened but the valve downstream had not been opened. Average pressure of the gas from the well had been 8500 psi.

### **310017249**

SIC: 1311/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

NAICS: 211111/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction

**Fall & Struck By:** Employees were engaged in "tripping". The process was slow as they had to "rabbit" each pipe before putting it in the well. The pipe was too long for the derrick man to reach, so the pipe was put in the mouse hole until the rabbit was put in the pipe. The derrick man would hold onto the rope on the rabbit until the pipe was pulled out of the mouse hole. The derrick man lost the rope before the pipe had been pulled out of the mouse hole, so the rabbit went down the mouse hole. The derrick man came down to operate the forklift to lift the mouse hole up so the rabbit could be retrieved. After replacing the mouse hole, the derrick man went back up the derrick. Apparently when he got back on the monkey board, he failed to tie off. When he reached out to grab the next pipe he fell from the derrick, striking the driller, who had been working floors, then striking the tongs. The derrick man was pronounced dead before he got off location. The driller was pronounced dead at the hospital.

### **310223847**

SIC: 1311/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

NAICS: 211111/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction

**Crushed By:** EE was working on rig floor when the travelling blocks contacted the crown of the rig causing the drill stem to break. The travelling blocks fell to the rig floor crushing the EE to death.

### **310690417**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Caught Between:** The drill bit had become plugged. The driller raised the drill string and let it fall approximately 20 feet and stopping abruptly to attempt to unplug the bit. This did not work and caused the brake to "break over". Employees attempted to fix the brake by attaching the winch line to the brake handle and pulling it back. This did not work and bent the shaft on the brake. Employees then removed the drum guard. Employees wanted to take the guard apart into three pieces so it would be easier to handle, and did begin to remove the bolts when the tool pusher told them that all five of them could remove the guard in one piece. The guard was removed in one piece and employees attempted to break the brake back over by using 36-inch pipe wrenches (36's) to pull the pivot point back over. This did not work. Employees then attached the 36's to the pivot point directly under the driller's console, and pulling the wrenches with the winch line. This did get the brake broke back over. Instead of allowing all five men to put the guard back in place over the drum or taking the guard apart so it could be more easily managed, three persons were directed to put the guard back in place while the tool pusher and the motor man worked on the bent brake handle. The victim was standing on top of the drum with his back against the drill line. The derrick man and a floor hand were trying to roll the guard up to the victim when the brake handle slipped and hit the throttle, causing the drum to rotate, pulling the victim into the drum. The drum rotated two full revolutions before employees could get it stopped. The victim was cut into two pieces and was pronounced dead by the justice of the peace.

### **310691852**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Caught-Between:** A casing crew was on location to put casing in the hole. The stabber was working in the derrick. The stabber was observed to go under the belly rope and got entangled in the top drive / travel block.

### **311130579**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Struck-By:** When telescoping the derrick up either the daws failed or the bolts on the ram sheared allowing the derrick to collapse, causing the ram to fold out. This also caused the traveling block to fall, striking an employee, fatally injuring the employee.

### **310017322**

SIC: 1311/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

NAICS: 211111/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction

**Electrocution:** An employee was checking an electrical switch box at an oilwell site. The switch box had been damaged by lightning the night before, which burned the insulation from wiring inside the box and left the conductors in contact with the switch box. When he touched the box, he was electrocuted.

### **310300090**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Explosion of Test Valve Assembly:** An oil field valve was being pressure, tested after repair, in a shop environment exploded hitting three employees with shrapnel causing the death of one employee.

### **307246876**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Flash Fire Erupted on the Rig Floor:** Employees were adjusting the brake when a flash fire occurred on the rig floor, engulfing the dog house. Four employees were burned, three sent to the burn unit in Lubbock, one treated and released at the local hospital.

### **307246306**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Fall Approx. 65' From Derrick Board:** At approximately 4:45 pm a 32 year old white male, oil field worker (derrick man), died Saturday night after falling approximately 65 ft. from a 90 ft. derrick board. The victim according to witnesses, grabbed the elevator which is 90' above the next level. He held on for a few minutes but than let go grasping a 4.5" vertical pipe. The victim slid partially down the pipe joint until he reached the pipe collar from where he free fell approximately 65 ft.

### **309787133**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Gas Well Fire During Servicing Operations:** While performing gas well servicing hydrocarbon vapors escaped from the well and was ignited by the engine on the workover rig. Two men were hospitalized due to the incident at approximately 1:00 pm.. The injured employees were transferred to the University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas for hospitalization where one individual passed away due to the burn injuries sustained during the accident.

### **309791788**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Work Over Rig Fell Over Crushing Victim:** The victim was in the rod basket of a 96 foot double triple telescoping derrick work over rig when a rat hole (sink hole) developed under the left rear stabilizer jack causing it sink approximately 8 inches resulting in the rig fell on its left side. The victim was caught in between the derrick and the ground.

### **310999867**

SIC: 1311/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

NAICS: 211111/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction

**Electrocution:** After completion of a well service operation using a pole rig the rig was moved off the hole and the operator was booming down when the pole came in contact with one of three phase lines, 7.5 KW resulting in fatal electrical shock injuries.

### **309783884**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Crushed By:** An oil/gas well drilling crew was putting the drill string back into the partially drilled well when the 23,000 # traveling block and attached 180,000 # drill string fell uncontrollably to the drilling floor. Victim #1 was the driller and was operating the drilling console and draw works brake system; he applied the main brake in an effort to control the falling blocks and pipe. There was smoke from the draw works. The drill string went down the well until stopped by the elevator. The blocks hit the floor leaning over to the drillers side and then fell on victim #1. The uncontrolled descent of the blocks was directly caused by the disengagement of the electric brake, defective draw works brake system, and inappropriate operation of the draw works; these were an insufficient inspection program, not utilizing

manufacturer's instructions for installation and operation, and a lack of operator knowledge and experience. The electric brake coupling handle latch became unbolted allowing the auxiliary brake to disengage from the draw works, thus it did not provide any braking to help control the drill string descent. The draw works main brakes overheated leading to the brakes complete failure; the brakes were missing retraction springs that pulled the bands from the flanges during periods of nonuse; the brakes had overheated previously. Contributing to the draw works brakes overheating was the high speed that the string was run back into the well and the late application of the brake. The rig inspection program did not identify the missing springs and the loose bolt along with other braking system deficiencies. The brake systems manufacturer's inspection and operation instructions were not available to the operators/inspectors; 3 of which, including Victim #1, had not operated electric brake systems prior to working on the rig.

### **309786689**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Block Fell From Rig and Crushed Employee:** Employees were drilling an oil/gas well and they were preparing to insert a 30 foot section of drilling pipe into the nearly 6500 foot long drilling string. The driller, operating the draw works, had pulled most of the Kelly out of the well when he felt a bump. Victim 1 and Victim 3 were on the west side of the drilling preparing to connect the Kelly to the new section of drill pipe, and Victim 2 was on the racking board preparing the power tongs to disengage the Kelly from the string. There then was loud noise and the crown sheave shaft came out of one of its mounts releasing the five sheaves, the drilling line, 165,000 pound drilling string, and the blocks to fall to the drilling floor. Victim 1's right leg was trapped under the blocks nearly amputating it and resulted in severe blood loss; Victim 2 was under Victim 1 suffered a head wound; and Victim 3 had a head wound and multiple right leg fractures. The driller had minor abrasions and contusions. The reason that the shaft pulled out of one of its pillar block was that the shaft retaining bolt (similar to a set screw) did not sufficiently penetrate into the shaft receptacle. This resulted in the end of the shaft moving and enlarging the pillar block shaft hole. This allowed the shaft end to move in and out of the pillar block; at the time of the accident the shaft pulled entirely free of the pillar block; then the second pillar block supporting steel structure failed resulting in the freed shaft end deflecting downwards allowing the unrestrained sheaves to fall. Underlying the preceding was inadequate inspections of the mast, including the crown assembly. The moving shaft had distended the pillar block causing an observable gap between the two. Two cracks, not associated with accident, were

observed on crown structure. Two bolts and a nut were found on the crown after the accident; their placement could not be ascertained and they were not damaged. The mast secondary structure had numerous sections bent or otherwise damaged; the employer upon completion of in-depth inspection replaced upwards of 25% of the upper mast secondary structure.

### **310997549**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Struck By:** Employee was between the tongs and the draw works when the cat head dual line attached to the tongs engaged striking the employee in the head and momentarily pinning it between the tong and the draw works housing.

### **309789675**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By Ruptured Pressurized Hose:** Employee #1 was in the process of hosing out an oilfield tank when a kick occurred in the fluid pressure hose he was holding. The diesel fluid came out of the hose at an unexpected pressure, possibly putting a laceration in the hose and bouncing up to hit him in the side of the face, and not only knocking his hard hat off as well as breaking it at point of impact.

### **310440920**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Employee Burned From An Explosion:** An employee was fatally injured when lighting ignited the fumes from the disposal tanks.

### **308650365**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Crushed By Hydraulic Ram of Bobcat:** Deceased employee jumped on to the back end of a traveling bobcat. The bobcat had an auger bit on the front end. The auger bit got stuck into the ground. Operator of bobcat, stopped, backed up the bobcat, and raised the auger bit up; when doing this the operator heard two bangs or slaps either on the top of the cab or on the back window of the cab. Operator stopped. Operator then saw something fall out of the corner of his eye; operator got out; and saw that it was the other employee. The hydraulic arms of the bobcat crushed his face and neck.

### **308653617**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Fall From Elevation:** The derrickman went up to the approximately 85 foot Derrick Board and fell while holding onto the elevator after attempting to latch a drill pipe from the fingers of the board. He was attempting to correct the grabbing of the pipe with the elevator that did not latch. He had his harness on but did not tie off while on the Derrick Board. The Rig Manager, driller and 2 floor hands were at the site. The Crew had been tripping the drill pipe out of the hole and then preparing to drill.

### **308651959**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By:** Employees were moving a drilling Rig from near Alvarado, Texas to near Brock, Texas. A Link Belt crawler type LS-138H5 crane was being used to move equipment into place. Crane operator was getting ready for another lift (draw works) and told the rigger to get some slings. The crane operator started backing up, he thought he had a clear path and proceeded backing up and tracking forward from the substructure. He heard some yelling and stopped the crane and noticed an employee on the ground. He stopped the crane and got out to help. The employee had multiple fractures to the right leg, fractures to the pelvis. He was taken to the hospital via helicopter. He passed away the next day due to complications.

### **308653542**

SIC: 1382/Oil and Gas Exploration Services

NAICS: 541360/Geophysical Surveying and Mapping Services

**Vehicle Roll Over-Struck By:** An employee working as a data collector for seismic survey company was driving a Land Pride 4X4 ATV when traversing a steep incline on a rocky, dirt road the vehicle turned over striking the employee. The road was covered with rocks 3" to 12" in diameter. It appears that the driver was backing down the hill and turned the steering wheel clockwise. When the back of the vehicle came around the passenger side back wheel rolled up on a rock, this may have caused the vehicle to go into a slow rollover because the vehicle landed on its side. The position of the body indicates that the employee attempted to exit the vehicle. We are not sure if the employee was wearing the seat belt. The employee was found with the

safety belt not engaged and it was working when the vehicle was inspected. It appears the employee was not wearing the seat belt, he was found with the vehicle on top of him and the mirror was on his neck. The employee's hands were in the up position as if to get the ATV off of him.

### **310439500**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Electrocution:** A compressor was picked up to be dropped off at a Gas Company by an Oil Field Service. A gin pole truck was backing up and as the compressor was being lowered the top of the derrick or wire rope line came into contact or in close proximity to an overhead powerline. The 2 employees were on each side of the skid as it was being lowered and received an electrical shock. The overhead line was distributing 7,200 volts. No scorch marks were observed on the wire rope or derrick. Induced voltage may have caused the compressor skid to become energized.

### **310440250**

SIC: 1311/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas

NAICS: 211111/Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas Extraction

**Struck By Pipe:** An employee was bleeding pressure off the discharge line of a compressor when the pipe sheared off at the threads and struck the employee. The employee was starting the compressor and then it would come back down. He called some employees and they thought it might be a bad suction or discharge valve. The employee called the mechanic from Universal Compressor and he would come out and check the problem. The employee closed off the valves on the lines going to the compressor. The employee was bleeding the pressure off to get the compressor ready for the mechanic. The pressure was about 900 psig at the Balon ball valve. The Balon ball valve had 3000 psig working pressure capacity. Apparently, the pipe came off when the employee opened the Balon ball valve. The piping system was put in by a subcontractor. A brace/support is usually put on the pipe; no bracing or support was observed being used at the time of the inspection.

### **310440433**

SIC: 1381/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

NAICS: 213111/Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

**Fall From Height:** An employee working off a scaffold during nipping down procedures for a stack lift (blow out preventer) tied off to the support on the back of the fork tines. When the forklift operator

brought the tines down to readjust the tines, the employee was pulled down. According to other workers, no one saw the employee tie off to the fork truck.

### **308654748**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Crush By Pumping Unit:** Owner and his employee were called to service Well #7609 to make sure the well was pumping correctly. The Well Service stated the well was working so apparently they began to clean up around the area. The owner was struck by the counter weights.

### **308656842**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By A Separator:** Employee was struck by a separator.

### **309508976**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Flash Fire:** At approximately 7:00 am, employees were attempting to open a trailer door (doghouse) that had frozen shut overnight. At approximately 7:20 am employees decided to use a weed burning torch to melt ice that was keeping the door from opening. As they began to heat around the door frame, a fireball blew open the door, injuring the employees. The torch had apparently ignited propane trapped inside the trailer. A portable stove that was left on the night before, to keep the trailer warm and dry the employees wet clothes, had "gone out" allowing propane to fill the trailer.

### **310649272**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Caught Between Engine Compartment and Boom:** It was Friday afternoon at approximately 4:20 pm the supervisor had instructed the crew to start clean-up. The victim who had been operating the all terrain forklift drove the vehicle outside the shop to park it. There had been an oil leak on the vehicle that had been noted earlier in the day but the decision had been made to wait until the end of the day to check for the location of the leak. It is speculated that the victim stood up in the operator's cabin of the A/T forklift and lifted the engine

compartment cover to look inside the engine compartment. The weight of the compartment cover may have caused the victim to lose his balance and fall forward into the engine compartment. As he fell forward his left knee hit the joystick that operates the boom pushing it forward causing the boom to lower trapping the victim between the boom and the engine compartment. The victim was found by a co worker who alerted others and emergency services were called. EMT's arrived on scene and the victim was removed from the A/T forklift and transported him to San Juan County Regional Hospital. The victim was treated for the injuries received in the incident but was not able to recover. The injuries that the victim received in the accident were fatal.

### **311064588**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Caught Between Pipe Baskets:** Employee began his work day at 5 a.m. The assigned task was to relocate the Well Service rig # 781. The task was completed. The crew, employee (swamper) and driver, was assigned to relocate pipe baskets at Well Service rig #730. The crew arrived at the location and the rig crew was not ready for them to begin work. The crew waited approximately three hours at the rig site. The crew began to remove the pipe baskets that were no longer required. The crew was in the process of setting the new pipe baskets on location at the rig. Two of the three pipe baskets had been set in the required locations. The crew, driver and swamper, was in the process of moving the third basket to the required location at the rig site. The basket had been placed on the truck and the vehicle was maneuvering to change direction of travel. The swamper was giving directions from the rear of the vehicle on the passenger's side. The driver saw the swamper in the mirror on the passenger's side of the vehicle then looked forward to insure the area in front of the vehicle was clear. He then looked back in his mirror on the passenger's side and did not see the swamper. He then looked in his mirror on the driver's side and observed the swamper being thrown to the ground. The swamper had been caught between a pipe basket on the ground and the rear of the pipe basket on the vehicle. Injuries received by the employee (swamper), were fatal. Equipment involved in the incident was: two pipe baskets, one on the vehicle and one stationary on the ground and an international truck.

### **310462114**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By:** While in the process of rigging up a well servicing rig, a well service employee attempted to release a lever type load binder with a cheater bar, but while doing this, the lever unexpectedly came loose causing the cheater bar to strike the employee in the chin causing the fatality.

### **310301106**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Struck By:** An employee of a service company was severely injured while working on a well site near Eunice, New Mexico. The victim was thrown into the air approximately 25 feet when equipment failed on the well. The victim suffered head trauma from the incident and was transported to a local hospital and subsequently moved to another hospital in Midland at a later date. It was approved by his family to remove him from life support when medical personnel decided that he would not recover from the injuries. The victim died.

### **310301445**

SIC: 1389/Oil and Gas Field Services, Nec

NAICS: 213112/Support Activities for Oil and Gas Operations

**Employee Working on Well Head Was Pinned Against the Cellar:** The victim was employed by a casing company as a floor hand . The company specializes in the plugging of non producing wells. The victim was in the process of cutting off a well head with a torch when the well head came off the casing. The well head, weighing approximately 1500 lbs fell on top of the victim pinning him to the ground, the well head was removed by co-workers and paramedics were called to the site. The victim was taken to Artesia General Hospital.

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