

Safety Alert

Near Miss - Hammer detached from rope anchor

An incident occurred recently on one of the Banut rigs whereby the hammer rope became detached from the pile hammer. Fortunately this occurred when the hammer was sat on, and driving a pile. As you can imagine if the 60mm securing pin had come out at another point of the operations, it could have had catastrophic consequences.

The circumstances were such that the sprung 'nappy pin' worked loose or got damaged and fell out, consequently the main 60mm diameter pin then fell out. The nappy pin is used to secure 150mm long 14mm diameter mild steel retaining bolt which in turn secures the main 60mm diameter pin.

The investigation discovered –

- Whilst attempts were made to report the incident to the relevant people in the office. The full detail of the incident were not known until the end of the day some 8hr after the event. The issue had by then been rectified with an onsite fitter.
- There have been NO previous formal reports of nappy pins falling out.
- Nappy pins are preferred over 'R' clips and normal split pins (probably due to the necessity to rig and derig regularly. It was reported we do not use 'R' Clips but another machine was seen with one fitted during the investigation. *(this was replaced)*).
- Nappy pins are also used to retain the mast guide pins.
- Manufacturer's recommendations were not really known at the time of the investigation.
- Various size/ tension nappy pins / R clips of carrying condition were noted during the investigation on 2-3 hammers in the yard.
- The particular Banut involved has a horizontal retaining bolt. Whilst this would be easier to fall out a vertical pin may be better.
- Apparently nappy pins have reportedly fallen out previously. There are NO formal reports of this in the office.

Recommendations

- Manufacturer's information is being reviewed to ascertain the required securing detail.
- Plant Operators to CHECK THEIR MACHINE re the
 - Size and types of pins fitted
 - General condition and tension of springs on the pins

Note – any damage or irregularities to be reported.

- CURRENT METHOD IS NAPPY PINS IN GOOD CONDITION
- Raise awareness of the need to report ALL ISSUES, however minor they may appear – previous nappy pins falling out?
- The 'hammer / anchor & Retaining pins' are on the Plant Inspection report form as a weekly check. From now on this **must be done DAILY**. *(books will be changed at next re-print)*.

IF IN DOUBT STOP WORK AND SEEK ADVICE

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Correctly fitted nappy pin in hammer connection



Different size / strength 'nappy pins' used on the hammer/ mast guides. Both show signs of damage and require replacing.



'R' clip securing pin – DO NOT USE!



Hi Tensile bolt and nylok nut fitted after event.



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