

Safety Alert

MMS

U.S. Department of the Interior
Minerals Management Service
Gulf of Mexico OCS Region

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Floorhand Crushed During a Through-Rotary Man-Riding Operation

On a drilling rig, a floorhand was lowered through the rotary to conduct operations on the bell nipple fill lines. Simultaneously and independently, the derrickman was instructed to begin freeing the BOP by removing bolts. After the derrickman loosened winch connections during his separately assigned task, the BOP stack shifted, pinching the floorhand and causing a serious, crushing injury.

An MMS investigation concluded that multiple operational errors contributed to the accident. The MMS recommends to operators the following:

- To avoid pinch points during man-riding work on the BOP stack, consider lifting from the Texas deck rather than lowering through the rotary.
- Explicit review of company procedure should be conducted *and followed* whenever a man-riding operation is to be used, especially through the rotary.
- Consider halting all secondary operations when a man-riding operation is in progress.
- Ensure that no work starts before the signed cold work permit and work instructions are received.
- Conduct a *fully* attended and written JSA meeting and ensure complete coordination whenever a man-riding operation is conducted.

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