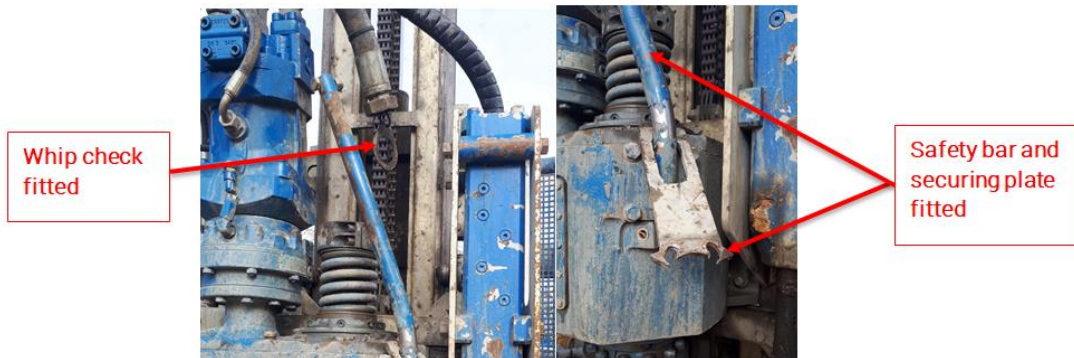


Safety Share 057

Location: Midlands

Description of task: Fitting a new water swivel to a rotary drilling rig

What went wrong? A replacement water swivel was supplied from the UK distributor of the rig. Once fitted, the drill head was put into rotation. After only a few rotations of the drill head, a bearing inside the water swivel failed, this led to the swivel turning with the drill head. During this process the driller observed the problem and stopped rotation of the drill head immediately, fortunately all safety devices had been fitted as expected thus preventing injury. Had the safety devices not been fitted, the incident could have led to a serious injury.



Lessons Learned:

- When replacing any parts on an item of safety critical plant ensure you are trained and competent in the task you are about to undertake.
- If you replace any parts on an item of safety critical plant i.e. water swivel on a rotary drilling rig all safety devices are replaced and you test the parts fitted in a controlled environment once fitted to ensure it is safe to use. When fitting a new water swivel this should be tested inside the cage at slow rotation.
- Once replacement parts are fitted ensure you complete a detailed log of the activity that can then be added to service history of the item of plant in question.
- If required contact your supervisor or line manager for advice as you may need to obtain additional equipment for the task.
- Daily inspection of all plant and equipment is required and any defects reported/rectified
- Always seek advice from your supervisor or line manager if you are unsure on any of the above points
- All incidents and near misses are to be reported to the incident helpline or via the app on your mobile device.
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