

Critical Risk: *Dropped Gland Packer*

What happened:

The drilling and wireline team was in the process of removing a dummy drift from the recovery tube after a downhole run. As the wireline equipment was being retrieved, it became disconnected from the tool, causing the gland packer to fall from a height narrowly missing a worker.

This incident occurred while both the drill crew and the wireline team were working simultaneously. As the drill string was being laid out from the pipe bins to the catwalk, the top drive remained close to the recovery tube to ensure worker safety.

When it was time to remove the wireline tool from the recovery tube, the communication between the driller and winch operator was essential to lift the top drive at the same time as the winch operator was spooling out the wireline. However, due to a synchronization issue, the top drive lifted the tool and an unknown restriction inside the recovery tube caused the line to over-tension as the safety devices were not activated during spooling out. This led to the wireline parting from the dummy drift, allowing the gland packer to fall to the subbase.

What did we learn:

- The current process had no secondary retention on the gland packing housing, which would have stopped it from falling into the sub-base area.
- Condensable Gases from the well caused ice to form inside the recovery tube which caused the restriction.
- Greater requirement to identify and complete risk assessments for Simultaneous Operations:
 - Create a matrix for all identified simultaneous operations, this then identifies risk hierarchy.
 - Review existing SWMS for simultaneous operations to identify potential gaps.
 - A bridging JSA to use to manage risk on conflicting SWMS

Photo - Gland Packer unscrewed from recovery with a portion of the tool beneath it protruding from the recovery tube..

