

Safety Alert

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Alert

During the loading process on the Hillabee Expansion, a Deckhand pipe loading attachment is utilized for loading the pipe on pole trailers for transport. This attachment is used in lieu of a vacuum type lift.

The Deckhand is equipped with a grapple type attachment that has tapered clamps that are poly coated to negate pipe damage. These tapers are made to help the clamp locate itself between two joints of pipe that are stacked together so the attachment can be properly oriented atop the pipe to be loaded.

When setting two joints together, such as on a pole trailer, this clamp can become pinched between two joints of pipe. As the clamps on the attachment are released and lifted, the chocks holding the outside of the pipe joints does not allow enough clearance for the clamps to clear. As the attachment is raised without sufficient clearance, it causes a rotation in the pipe, which in turn, allows the pipe to “walk” up and over the chock potentially contacting the ground, equipment, or employees.

Actions Required Immediately

The manufacturers manual was acquired and reviewed but did not address this particular situation. The loading process was observed and it was noted that if the chocks were configured in such a way as to allow for proper load securement, while still providing extra clearance for the tapered portion of the clamp. This, coupled with knuckling out of the attachment when placing the joint of pipe next to another joint of pipe positions the clamp in such a way that it does not provide a wedge action between the pipes, which makes clearance between the pipes less critical. This knuckling out of the attachment requires the drivers to position the pole trailer at a distance to allow for the knuckling out.



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