SAFETY Alert

PREPARED BY: Corporate QHSE Dept.

N°	03/2024	Date:	March 2024

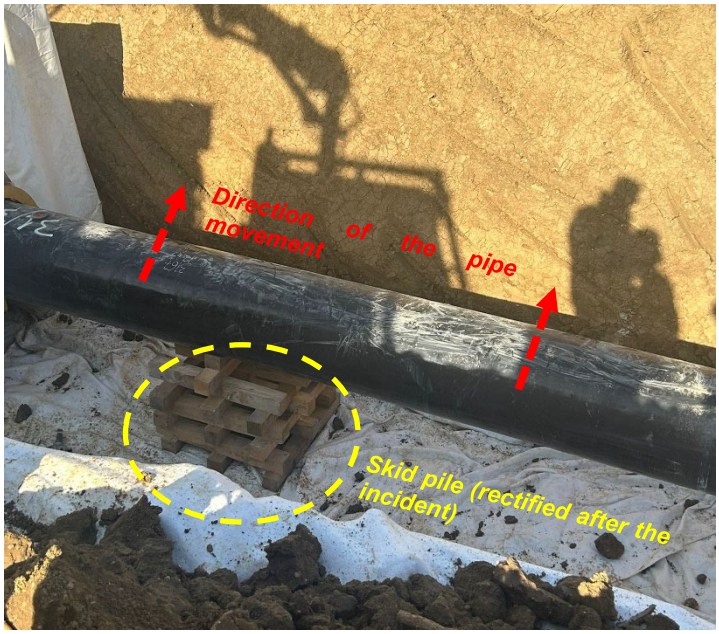
OBJECT: PIPE SECTION MOVEMENT INSIDE THE BELL HOLE

DESCRIPTION

During welding preparation works in the bell hole the crew was in the process of fitting a pipe string and it was observed a sudden movement of the section laid on skids. The movement was due to the unstable surface of bottom of the excavation, which caused the skid pile to sink and tilt slightly. As a result, the section moved aside approximatively a foot. The personnel present in the ditch was immediately evacuated and then the section was secured. After investigation it resulted that the skid pile had been built over the ditch bottom drainage material which did not present a sufficient stability to safely support a pipe section.

CONSEQUENCES

- High Potential consequence, endangering the personnel present in the bell hole.
- Evacuation of the personnel present in the bell hole
- Work activity temporarily suspended to secure the section.



Please note: This photograph has been taken after the section was secured – upon HSE coordinator arrival

INCIDENTS CAUSES

- Inadequate risk perception / risk underestimated: the instability of the trench bottom was not properly assessed. The necessity to place another lifting equipment downstream of the section was not identified;
- Failure to follow procedure: as per the risk assessment procedure, this activity requires the presence of at least 2 lifting equipment respectively placed downstream and upstream of the tie-in location;
- Improper placement: while 2 equipment were lifting the section upstream of the tie-in location, the downstream section was only supported by a skid pile;
- Using tools / equipment or material improperly: the skid pile was built on the ditch draining bed and not laying on an adequate and stable surface.

CORRECTIVE AND PREVENTIVE ACTIONS

Measures adopted to prevent recurrence of similar incidents:

- Develop an assessment process of the ditch bottom conditions, especially in presence of drainage, prior to start any fitting operations or whenever lowering a section on skid piles.
- During fitting activities ensure the presence of a least 2 lifting equipment respectively placed upstream and downstream of tie-in location.
- Perform additional refresh training for the site staff regarding the Tie-in Risk Assessment, highlighting the requirement of lifting equipment placement and ditch bottom inspection.

RECEPTION BY THE PROJECT	
WHICH ACTIONS IDENTIFIED TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE PROJECT:	
Project Manager: Signature:	**HSE Project Manager**: Signature: