



Learning Event



WORKING AT HEIGHT

HAZARD
Physical
(Object at height)

Dropped Object

CONSEQUENCES

Actual: No harm to persons

Potential: This could have caused a permanent impairment if crew members were working below

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MAKE SURE THAT POTENTIAL DROPPED OBJECTS ARE REMOVED OR SECURELY TETHERED BEFORE STARTING WORK AT HEIGHT?

What Happened?

A work crew was removing residual water from a tank using pneumatic pumps. The work area had a total vertical height of 50 metres, split into 5-6 metre sections by internal decks and catwalks.

3 crew members were working on setting up the pneumatic pumps and hose arrangement on the last catwalk level at the bottom of the tank. 2 other crew members were outside the tank. One was managing hoses running upwards through the deck penetrations and the other was acting as sentry.

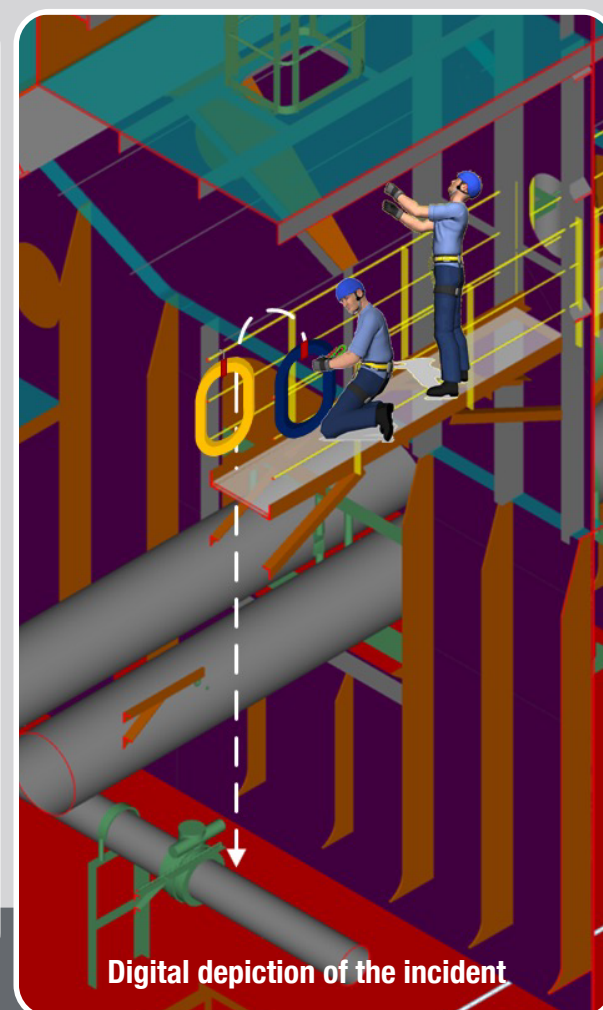
The crew member acting as sentry was attempting to de-congest the catwalk and remove trip hazards by hanging unused hoses over the outside of the handrail using hose hooks. They grabbed 2 coiled and stacked hoses from the walkway and manually lowered them to the outside of the rail and let them go.

One of the coiled hoses was not connected to a hose hook and dropped approximately 10 metres to the tank floor below.

No crew members were positioned below the work area, and no risk of injury was identified.



Example of hoses on Hose Hooks



Digital depiction of the incident

Why did it Happen?

- The crew member assumed that both hoses were secured to hose hooks, without physically confirming their attachment.
- Both hoses should have been individually tethered to the rail using a hose hook. Sufficient hose hooks were available. Both hoses were coiled and the crew member assumed that they were both on the same hook.

What did they Learn?

- All equipment stored or staged at height must be tethered, even if it is on a permanent work platform with appropriate railings and kick plates.
- Crews should always apply a “trust but verify” mentality to all work tasks.
- The equipment was being lowered into a constrained area. There wasn't a clear distinction between the area where equipment was lowered and where the crew needed to setup the equipment. This led to crew having to move through equipment in order to complete the setup.

IOGP Life-Saving Rules

- ✓ Understand and use safety critical equipment and procedures which apply to the task
- ✓ Be positioned to avoid dropped objects
- ✓ Establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones
- ✓ Take action to secure loose objects and report potential dropped objects
- ✓ Secure tools and work materials to prevent dropped objects



Ask yourself or your Crew:

- Do you work underneath potential dropped objects? Do you always ensure that loose objects above you are removed or securely tethered before you start work? Do you report potential dropped objects? Do you stop work if a potential dropped object is identified?

Further information:



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