



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 04 – 17

FAILURE TO USE FALL PROTECTION RESULTS IN HIGH POTENTIAL INCIDENT

WHAT HAPPENED:

A scaffolding foreman was working on the skid beam along with another scaffolder to remove two temporary sea fastenings. The work was originally planned as a job for the hook-up and commissioning contractor. The scaffolders were on a call-out to build scaffolding to allow the contractor to carry out the job from a fixed platform. After the Injured Person (IP) visited the site, he assessed that the scaffolders could do the job using harnesses instead of building scaffolding. He agreed this change with the construction supervisor but there was no follow-up conversation with the permit authorities. The first job was carried out successfully. At some stage prior to or during the second job, the IP did not secure his safety line. During the second job, one of the bolts was tight and the IP asked for a second spanner. During this operation one of the spanners slipped, the IP lost his balance and fell backwards through an opening and to the deck 13.5m below, hitting an inclined support beam on the way down. The injured received a fractured pelvis. The incident could have resulted in a fatality.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

There was noncompliance with the company's requirements for working at heights and permit to work. Four other personnel observed the job but no one checked whether the IP had attached his safety line and no one stopped the job. There was insufficient control of work on the platform caused by lack of rigor in the structure, application and audit of the Permit to Work system. Management of change: The installation of the platform alongside an existing facility involved a significant ramp up in activity. Additional mitigating processes were put in place to mitigate this risk but these were not adequate. Working at heights: IP did not attach his safety line when working above 2meters.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company instructed personnel in the following:

- Compliance with working at heights and permit to work to be improved through systematic verification of the quality of work permits and knowledge of Company Directives.
- Safety expectations to be reinforced for all personnel involved in the installation of platforms with focus on zero tolerance for non-compliance with safety rules and platform standards.
- Emphasize personal responsibility to stop work that is unsafe.
- Structure and operation of the Permit to Work system on the project to be improved to provide better control of work.
- Job description to be developed for the Area Authority role on the platform.
- **Key Messages:**
 - Rules must be followed
 - Everyone has an obligation to stop work that is unsafe.
 - Consult the permit authorities if a job changes, no matter how small the change.
 - Never underestimate the need to ensure the controls that have been put in place to control work are actually working.



Trajectory of IP

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.