



Learning Event



WORKING AT HEIGHT

HAZARD

Physical
(object at height)

**Person in
Line of Fire**

CONSEQUENCES

Actual: No harm to persons
Potential: This could have caused a fatality

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO SECURE PORTABLE TOOLS TO PREVENT DROPPED OBJECTS WHEN WORKING AT HEIGHT?

What Happened?

Two workers were working approximately 5 metres above the ground on a permanent access platform, removing the lid on a Tri-Ethylene Glycol (TEG) Discharge Coalescer as part of a scope of works to replace the filter cartridges. While slackening the studs, using a hytorq cassette and a flogging spanner as a backing spanner, the flogging spanner was dropped and fell through the gap between the access platform and the Coalescer. The falling spanner struck the upper isolation valve, causing damage to the flange, and then impacted a nearby line to the open drain system before landing on the ground. The spanner fell within the established exclusion zone.

Why did it Happen?

There was a gap between the permanent access platform and the Coalescer which was large enough for the spanner to fall through.

The gap was identified, but not perceived to be a hazard because the technician believed that the gap was too small for the spanner to fall through it. Further, the spanner could only fall through the gap if it deflected as it fell. The spanner dropped out of the technician's hand and was deflected off their knee through the gap.



The gap between the Coalescer and the permanent access platform



Final location of the dropped spanner

What did they Learn?

- Securely cover all potential gaps to prevent a potential dropped object. Scaffolding plans should include:
 - details for dropped objects protection in the functional description
 - at the post-scaffolding inspection, processes to verify that dropped objects protection is sufficient.
- Use tool lanyards, unless the use of a lanyard introduces additional hazard. Tool lanyards may be attached to a person (if less than 2 kg) or alternatively can be attached to a safe and secure anchor point.
- Ensure that exclusion zones are adequately sized, particularly where there is a risk of deflection.
- Evaluate opportunities to substitute tooling that may require less force or manual effort in its application.

IOGP Life-Saving Rules

- ✓ 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:

- What do you do at your worksite to prevent non-secured tools and equipment, and small pieces (e.g. nuts and bolts), from slipping through openings such as walkway gratings and access platform penetrations?
- Do you perform regular inspections of equipment and work areas at your work site to identify dropped object hazard areas?
- When a potential dropped object is identified, do you and your work mates discuss the "what if" question? (e.g. What if that falls - could it hit people or plant? What is the worst outcome if it did?)
- When an actual or potential dropped object is identified, do you report it to your supervisor?

Further information:



Safer Together
DROPS Management
System Self
Assessment Guideline



DROPS (Dropped
Object Prevention
Scheme):
Recommended
Practice



Step Change in Safety
Q2 2021 Campaign:
Safe Lifting Operations
and Preventing Falling
Objects



DROPS (Dropped
Object Prevention
Scheme):
Recommended
Guidelines for the
Safe Use of Tools &
Equipment at Height

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