

Incident Learning: What happened?

PERSON FALLING FROM ELEVATED POSITION

What happened?

Service Provider employees were conducting HP (high pressure) cleaning of a vessel. The assisting employee fell through the scaffold platform when a filler board gave way under him. The injured employee sustained contusions/bruising and superficial abrasions on the right lower leg.

Underlying and root causes:

- Inadequate work planning – the team did erect scaffolding according to the company approved procedure and the SANS code.
- Negligence by the supervisor and charge hand – the employees were duly trained and declared competent, and yet they failed to pre-use inspections and as a result defective/substandard material was used, which resulted in a safety breach due to ignorance and failure to properly follow the prescribed procedure

What are the learnings for implementation?

- Ensure that company procedures, relevant legislation(OHSA Regulations) and SANS 10085 for scaffolding are always observed and followed.
- Filler panels must only be used to close small gaps. In areas where gaps are seemingly too big to safely bridge same with filler panels, intermediate support or steel boards must be used by the scaffolding team. If in doubt the Supplier' s SHE site manager must be consulted
- Pre-use inspection of all scaffolding material must be done with the relevant team and supervisor. For this purpose, the scaffolding team must submit ,if requested by Sasol, a document, duly signed by the supervisor, confirming that the complete Pre-use inspection was duly completed
- Chargehand must not in any circumstances accept/utilize substandard material to erect scaffolding and/or to fill bigger gaps
- Substandard material must be removed and placed in a dedicated area where safety risks are optimally mitigated.