

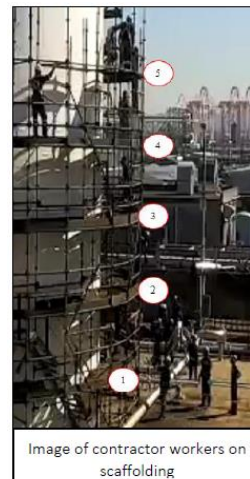
Incident Learning: What happened?

Incident Description:

- On May 12th, 2021 at approximately 10h51, scaffolding platform boards were dropped from a height of approximately 6m. This occurred during dismantling of scaffolding around a bulk storage tank.
- The Contractor Company employee located at level 5 (see image below) was dismantling scaffolding platform boards. The methodology used was that boards from the top level (level 5), would be passed to level 4 and continued down the levels until the boards reach the ground. A Contractor Company employee is positioned at each level to receive the scaffold platform board and passes it down safely.
- On the day of the incident, the employee situated at level 1 requested a bottle of water from his colleagues situated on the ground level.
- His colleagues passed him a bottle of water thereby introducing a distraction.
- The employee on level 1 continued to drink water, interrupting the flow of activity. During this time the first scaffold platform board was handed down and was waiting at level 2. The employee at level 3 tried to pass the second scaffold platform board to the person at level 2 without realizing that the person at level 2 was still holding the previous scaffold platform board.
- The employee at level 3 released the second scaffold platform board causing the second scaffold platform board to hit the first scaffold platform board, resulting in both boards falling to ground.

Consequences:

- None



What are the learnings for implementation?

RECOMMENDATIONS

- No food or drinks can be brought into a work area. A designated area outside of the work zone should be identified.
- Perform a stand down to communicate the risk relating communication protocols and the risk high potential incidents.
- The risk assessments must identify all the risks associated with the work and the controls necessary for preventing accidents; specifically for working at heights, the risk of falling people and objects and the controls to protect people and objects in the fall risk zone
- A fall risk zone must always be identified and activity in that zone must be carefully controlled (keep safe distance), i.e. restriction of access to people and protection of equipment/assets.
- The method statements should detail exactly how to carry out work safely, step by step, and in what order. In particular the roles, responsibilities and means of communication.
- Constant communication to be observed with a single point of contact (more so when line of sight is obstructed) to stop and start interventions.
- At all times, any objects lying around must be cleared away (tools, bars, rods, nuts, hoses, etc.).