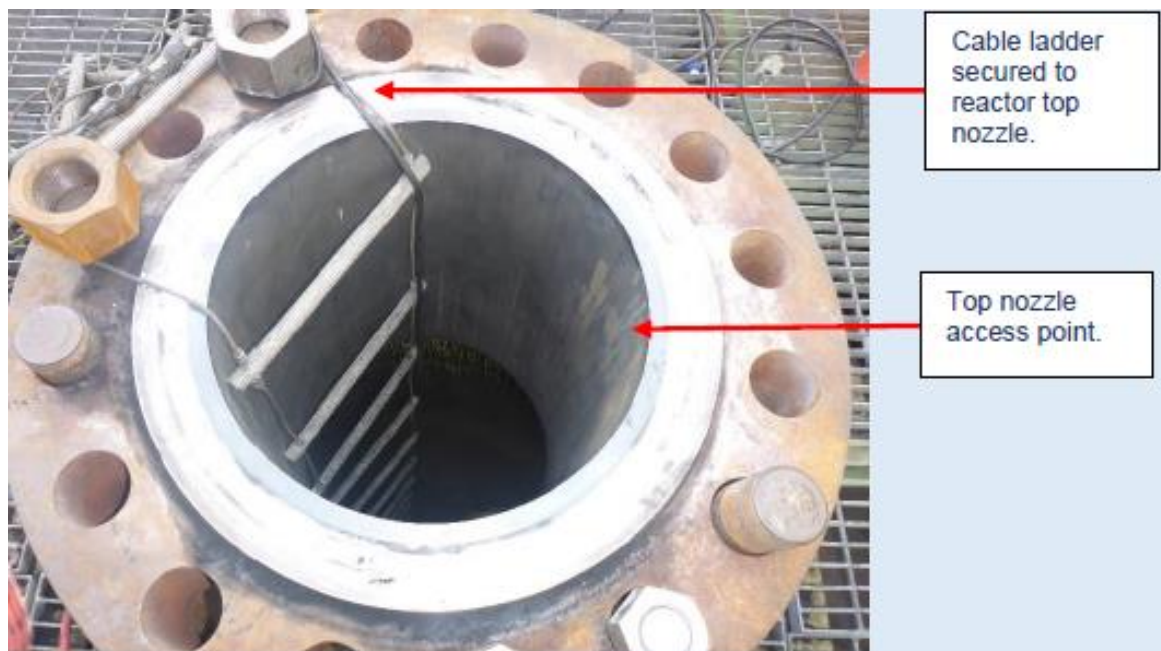


SASOL – LEARNING – CABLE LADDER INCIDENT

Description of incident:

- A mechanical service provider employee borrowed a cable ladder from another service provider company and entered the reactor to retrieve a pouch from the bottom of the reactor. While ascending the cable ladder the person slipped and fell +/-2,6m from an elevated position.



Consequences:

- Lost workday
- Fractured wrist (R)
- Abrasion leg (R)
- Contusion wrist and knee (L)

SASOL – LEARNING – CABLE LADDER INCIDENT

Root causes:

- Inexperience in practical skills:
 - Person did not use the correct body posture while ascending the cable ladder.
- Deviation from approved method, procedure or rule by any individual:
 - The standby did not stop the person from entering the reactor by means of a cable ladder without using fall arrest equipment.
 - The person continued to enter the reactor without adhering to the standby's request for wearing personal fall arrest equipment.
- Selection of employee for the task
 - An untrained person was selected for the task.
- Inadequate leadership or decision making demonstrated
 - The service provider foreman instructed a person to retrieve a pouch from inside the reactor, using a cable ladder as means of access although he was not trained in the use thereof

SASOL – LEARNING – CABLE LADDER INCIDENT

Contributing factors:

- Deviation from approved method, procedure or rule by any individual
 - The permit issued for entering the reactor to retrieve the pouch was handed to the task executor and the recipient was not aware of the task.
- Hazard not appreciated
 - A PTRAs was not completed before the task therefore the risk of falling from the cable ladder was not appreciated.
- Preparation / planning inadequate.
 - The inspector requested the service provider to retrieve his pouch from the reactor. He did not report that his pouch had fallen into the reactor to production and did not let the scope owner know of the task he had requested from the service provider.
 - An untrained person was selected for the task.

SASOL – LEARNING – CABLE LADDER INCIDENT

Key learnings:

1. Ensure that risk assessments for all work which is conducted at heights or unprotected edges include falling objects and control thereof.
2. All changes or additions to the scope of work should be made through the scope owner.
3. Ensure pre-task risk assessment is reviewed when the scope of activities changes.
4. Consider alternative methods to enter equipment.
5. In cases where the use of cable ladders is unavoidable, the following must be considered:
 1. Ensure fall arrest equipment, (safety harness and retractable lifeline) is utilised when using a cable ladder.
 2. Ensure competency is verified before use of cable ladders.
 3. Ensure the permit recipient has been informed.

SASOL – LEARNING – CABLE LADDER INCIDENT



END