

LFI: Road Curb Trip & Fall @ Voorbaai Tank Farm

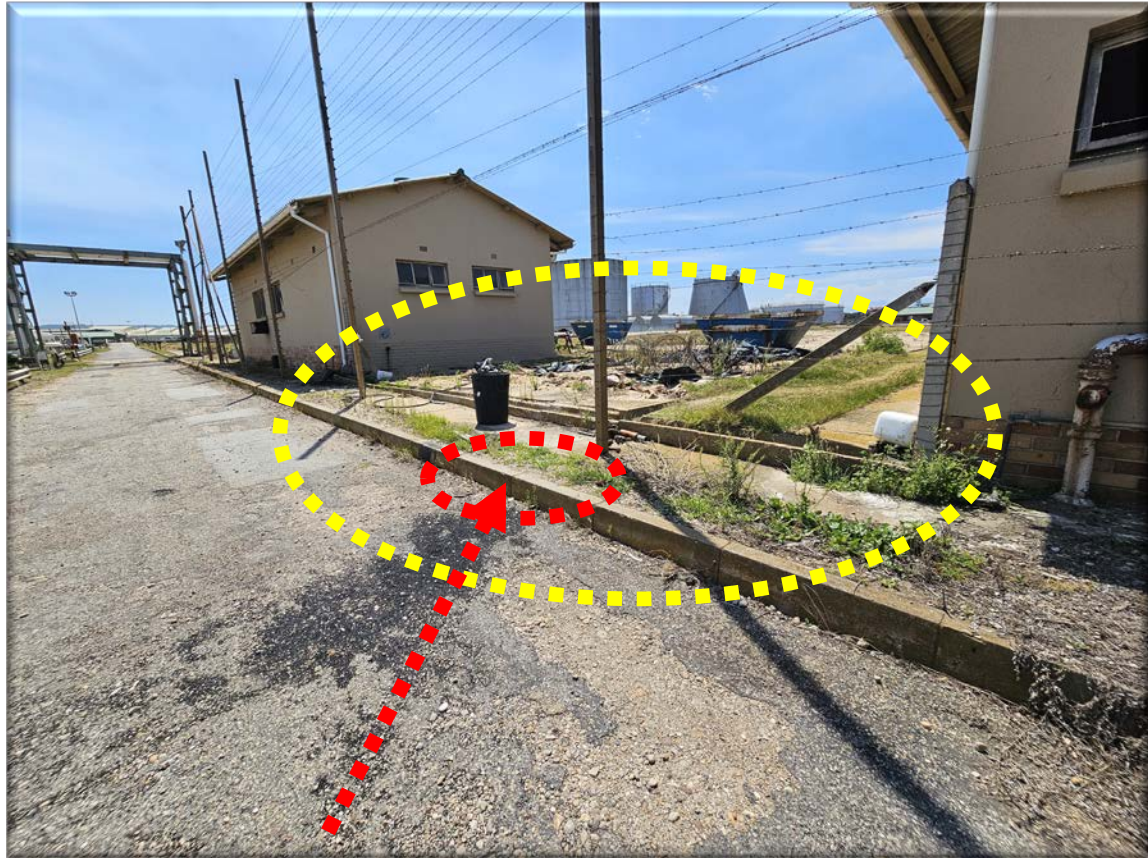


IOD **LTI** – 19 January 2024

- Voorbaai Tank Farm @ 16H30 -

What Happened?

- o Security Officer patrolling the perimeter fence in anti-clockwise direction from the gate office.
- o *Route crosses the road to pass through to the maintenance workshops.*
- o Safety Hazard – required to safely negotiate the curb to check the workshop building.
- o *Right foot tripped against top edge of the road curb.*
- o Security Officer fell down towards the left and cushioned fall with left hand.
- o *Left Hand muscles torn. Injured wrist. No fracture. Booked off by OMP. Injury > 13 days – thus more serious than normal LTI.*



Why did it Happen?

- o A defined security patrol route is used – thus needs to be assessed as safe for use.
- o Slip and Trip hazards has been the main contributor to IODs of security personnel – the other being physical injuring when apprehending thieves.
- o Causal factor: STF hazards created by waste material from the fence refurbishment project was littering the patrol route – not removed to waste skips as safe location prior to disposal.



Faded Chevron Paint



Contractor did not clear out fence project rubbish. Presents STF risks on the patrolling route.

Sub-Standard Acts?

- **Protective Methods & Inattention: Deviation by Individual** – inattention to footing and surroundings. Failure to identify the light not working at staircase as a hazard - which required that his eye focus had to be on his foot placement at the staircase to ensure safe navigation thereof.
- **Following Procedure (Reporting of Near Misses): Deviation by Group** – the employees did not report the lightbulbs not working above the staircase.
- **Following Procedure (SHE Inspection): Deviation in HSE-MS (MBO) System** – SHE Management inspections at the CCR not done on scheduled basis since Covid pandemic, which could have recognised the near miss prior to the accident.

Sub-Standard Conditions?

- **Protective Systems: Defective Safety Devices** – rubber nosing at bottom step of staircase is worn out thus not preventing slippage when stepping.
- **Protective Systems: Inadequate Hazard Warning Signs** – staircase hazard warning sign not installed at staircase.
- **Workplace Environment: Inadequate Illumination** – lightbulbs in staircase lamp not working and requires replacement – no illumination above staircase.

Root Causes?

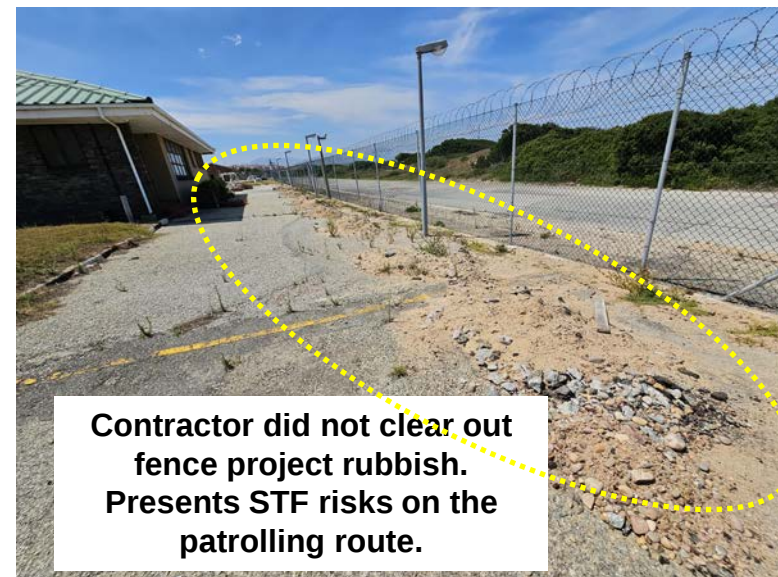
- **Behaviour: Inadequate ID of Hazards Present (i.e. Critical Safe Behaviour)**
Required behaviour at a staircase are the following – focus eyes on placement of feet on steps of staircase and avoid being distracted therefrom whilst negotiating the staircase.
- **Inadequate Workplace Management / Planning / Control: Inadequate At Risk Reporting**
The hazards implicated with this injury were not reported as Near Misses. SHE Management Inspections were stopped during Covid, but has not been reinstated since.
- **Inadequate Maintenance: Insufficient Funds for required Safety Maintenance**
The absence of sufficient funds hampers full resolution of all safety related maintenance, especially the maintenance items ranked as lowest safety risk.

System Deficiencies?

- **HSE- Management System** – Scheduled SHE Management Inspections to be restarted.

Lessons Learned?

- o STF hazards on Security Patrol routes can cause bad injuries – In this case the only Reportable Injury (> 14 days off work).
- o *Security Officers patrolling must always report STF hazards – as they are in fact inspecting the facility. Knowing how to recognise STF hazards is important.*
- o Critical for Us to recognise that projects must be held accountable for removal of their rubbish from our premises. Cat 3 item – *but not when it comes to our Occupational Safety.*
- o *Always look and watch where you place your feet when on patrol.*
- o Restart of SHE Management Inspections as it would have prevented this injury.



Thank You

“Do your little bit of good where you are;
its those little bits of good
that when put together
can change the world”

Desmond Tutu