



# Industry Safety Alert

Fall from Scaffold Ends in Fatality

# Alert

Although this incident did not happen within our family of business units, please take the time to read it and apply to our everyday tasks.

## What Happened

A worker who was performing scaffolding erection drowned after he fell into the water off of a trestle to a berth facility. The deceased was found underwater by Overseas Disaster Assistance and Rescue Team divers. The employee was found with his body harness attached to the fallen scaffolding. He had his life jacket on.

## Lessons Learned

- The body harness was not secured to an available independent lifeline. Instead, it was secured to the scaffolding ledger, which the deceased was working on.
- The beam clamps, which are the critical support ties for the scaffold stability, were found to have been loosened. This contributed to the scaffolding being able to dislodge from the I-beam and fall into the sea.
- Always follow every step in Safe Work Practices and Procedures. Ensure you and your co-workers are familiar and comply with every step in Safe Work Practices and Procedures. STOP and seek clarifications if in doubt.
- Always comply with control measures with regards to Fall Prevention and Personal Protective Equipment. Ensure you and your co-workers are familiar and comply with every element in your PPE. STOP and seek clarifications if in doubt.
- When erecting suspended scaffolding, ensure that you properly secure your body harness to an independent lifeline and correct anchor point.



Approximate location where the deceased was working and location of scaffolding which fell.



Fallen scaffolding recovered from the sea.

The deceased was found with body harness attached to the 4-meter ledger of this scaffolding.

## Questions for the Team

- What mistakes were made? Am I 100 percent tied off to the identified, approved anchorage point(s)?
- What can we do differently next time?
- Are we ensuring that procedures are correctly implemented that establish minimum requirements for working at elevated work locations or that present a potential for fall and/or injury to personnel?
- Are we verifying that all personnel working at heights near or above water are knowledgeable and experienced in the work practices necessary to perform their job in a safe and environmentally sound manner?
- Are anchorage points selected, tested and inspected in accordance with applicable legal requirements and/or accepted industry best practices?
- Are anchorage points being approved by a Competent Person?



Please remain focused while working and do it safely or not at all!