



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 01-23

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## *Dropped Object*

We recently learned of an incident concerning a dropped object while staging tools on an offshore facility. An employee placed an open-end wrench on the grating instead of the drop cloth that was laid out. The wrench was not equipped with a tool lanyard and slipped through a crack between sheets of grating causing it to drop approximately 13 ½ feet to the deck below which was not barricaded. There were no injuries or property damage reported.

Although no injuries occurred, it's important to realize what could have happened and to assure that we do all that we can to prevent situations like this from occurring in the future. An understanding of the primary causes of incidents like these can help us conduct thorough risk assessments/HAZID moving forward. Below are a few of the top causes:

- **Inadequate Risk Assessment** - Failure to identify dropped object hazards  
A risk assessment (LAW) can identify potential energy sources, tools and equipment required for each task and increase worker awareness about the potential dangers of falling objects.
- **Human Factors** – Operator error, poor behavior, complacency, neglect  
Inadequate training or awareness of hazards, operator error, complacency, neglect and poor reporting can result in compromised safety.
- **Inadequately Stored or Secured Tools** – No tool lanyards or tethers being used. No containment of loose items.  
Hand tools, power tools, even Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are all examples of equipment and tools that should be securely tethered with tool lanyards.
- **Inadequate Procedures** – Bad planning.  
Planning a job is critical to job success. This allows us to identify and mitigate all potential dropped objects present during job execution.
- **Failed Fixtures & Fittings** – Corrosion, vibration, poor design, selection or improper installation.  
Failed fixtures and fittings can and will often dislodge and fall. Regular inspection helps monitor any deterioration so that appropriate measures can be taken.
- **Poor Housekeeping** - Pre-existing hazards from previous tasks or not picking up as we complete our task.  
Workplaces and tools should be kept organized and tidy. Loose tools and equipment left around pose an unexpected risk to other workers.
- **Collisions & Snagging** – Lifting, travelling equipment, tag lines, service loops.  
Moving equipment, lifting and tag lines can all cause snagging or collision. The impact of collisions can cause breakage or create other dropped objects and debris.
- **Inadequate Inspection & Maintenance** – Ignoring unsafe conditions.  
Regular inspections and maintenance repair schedules can help identify corrosion, damages, wear and tear to equipment and structural elements before they become a falling object risk.
- **Redundant, Neglected and Home-made Tools and Equipment** – These should be eliminated  
Home-made tools, improvised tool tethers, equipment that is uncertified, or even damaged tools that have been subjected to a previous fall can fail or break unexpectedly. Tools and tool tethering equipment should always be inspected before use.
- **Environmental Factors** - Wind, sea motion, ice, extreme conditions  
The effects of these elements are more pronounced in exposed areas, such as working at height offshore, and can compromise the stability of equipment, tools and structural features.

Remember, Identify potential dropped objects on the JSEA complete the Dropped Objects Checklist and barricade areas below when working at height. If you should have any questions, please contact the Corporate HSE department.

***Report all incidents immediately to the GIS Hotline 1-855-543-5163.***

**SAFETY ALERT**