



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 09-21

Date: 03/24/21

## *Scaffold Incident*

There was a scaffolding incident during demo that we wanted to share with everyone in an effort to raise awareness when it comes to scaffold utilization.

### *Incident Summary*

An employee was descending down a scaffold. When the employee got approximately 4 feet from the deck, the scaffold ladder started to pull away from the leg/support which caused the female inserts of the scaffold ladder to bend. This caused the employee to contact a valve handle below, injuring his knee.

### *Supporting Facts*

- ✓ The employee coming down the ladder was tied off with a 6 foot lanyard
- ✓ Scaffolding was recently changed out and has only been on location since Jan. 2021
- ✓ Scaffolding was visually inspected prior to erection
- ✓ Incident was not reported immediately. Employee felt like he was going to be ok.

Although this was a minor incident, we could have prevented this in several ways. When a scaffold is tagged, this means that it has met all of the requirements of regulation and the builder is satisfied with the result. However, every employee utilizing a scaffold should look it over in an effort to find issues that may present themselves to a new pair of eyes. It was found that the ladder bracket was not properly tightened at the time of the incident. This could have been from several things but also could have been caught by proper visual inspection.

We should always try to have a Vertical Lifeline (SRL/Yo-Yo) available and hanging, to use when climbing scaffolding. By using a SRL, a maximum fall of 2 feet before locking up would have prevented the employee from contacting the valve handle.

Lastly, we must ALWAYS report incidents IMMEDIATELY to our supervisor no matter how minor!! Injuries do not present themselves at first and then can cause issues later. By reporting the incident right after they happen, it allows our HSE staff the opportunity to take care of the employee and investigate the incident to prevent the issue from happening to someone else.

If you should have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Corporate HSE department.

### Typical Scaffold Ladder Setup

Damaged female section of scaffold ladder



Place where  
bracket worked  
loose

Place where male  
component bent.



SAFETY ALERT