



H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



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BSEE Advises Extreme Caution During Personnel Transfers

Although most employees fly on helicopters to gain access to offshore facilities, there are still many cases where we must use swing ropes and personnel baskets to transfer to them. Following a recent injury where an employee sustained a fractured foot when attempting to use a swing rope to board a satellite platform from a workboat, BSEE has issued a Safety Alert concerning the dangers that exist.

Below are a few examples of incidents, which prompted BSEE to issue the Alert.

- As the captain maneuvered the boat, a worker placed his foot on a bumper tire to position himself for the swing. The worker's foot slipped between the tire and the boat when the tire hit the platform, resulting in injury.
- An employee lacerated his shin after it struck the rear of a vessel as he was completing a swing.
- An employee fell into the water between a workboat and a platform when he misjudged the distance between the boat's deck and the top of a swell during a swing rope transfer. As he made his swing, the wave shifted the boat, moving the landing area. When the employee let go of the swing rope, he fell into the water. He was quickly retrieved from the water and did not sustain injuries.
- Personnel were transferring to a boat, as the personnel basket landed on the boat and personnel began to get off, a wave shifted the boat causing slack in the rigging, which resulted in the top section of the basket striking a contractor
- During transfer, the personnel basket made contact with the vessel's deck partially collapsing the basket. In doing so, an individual fell on his right side onto the deck injuring him.
- Three personnel were being transferred from a motor vessel to a derrick barge. When the basket was lifted off the deck to the supply boat, the crane block was off center of the basket causing it to swing and contact the bullwark. One employee fell off the basket from a height of approximately 2 feet and landed flat on his back.
- While transferring from a platform to a boat via a swing rope, an employee hit his knee on the top of the stern bulwarks

The review of these incidents identified common contributing factors – fitness for duty for individuals conducting swing rope transfers; inadequate training and poor judgement; techniques (poor grip, mistimed swing, etc.); and weather factors.

Therefore, BSEE recommends that operators and their contractors, where appropriate, do the following:

- Treat all offshore personnel transfers as stand-alone operations and conduct a formal risk assessment before a transfer occurs. A stop work authority should be initiated if there are any concerns regarding the safety of the operation,
- Verify personnel competencies regarding the proper utilization of swing ropes on offshore assets where swing ropes are used to ensure all personnel understand and recognize the applicable safety aspects

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

Following your initial phone call, an incident report **must** be completed and e-mailed to:

incident@gisy.com

SAFETY ALERT