



H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 19-22

Date: July 14th, 2022

Scaffold Board Falls Into Water

Earlier this week a three-man GIS scaffolding crew was assigned to demo a hanging scaffold underneath the cellar deck of an offshore facility.

The planned operation and the working over water permit was issued and the crew completed a scaffolding JSEA, staging JSEA, rope JSEA, and conducted a toolbox talk at approximately 1:30 PM prior to commencement of work.

The plan as discussed within the crew was to use the buddy system to handle scaffolding material and to form a chain passing the scaffolding material from crew member to crew member until the task was completed.

After the permit was obtained, the team met at the work site where the tool box talk was conducted. The TBT discussed the permit conditions and the hazards of the job. The JSEA's were reviewed, and signed off once all mitigations were agreed upon.

At approximately 1:45 PM one of the crew members grabbed the first six-foot scaffold board and it slipped out of his hand and the scaffold board fell into the water below.

The job was stopped, reported to the GIS Supervisor, Shell OIM, and a subsequent safety stand down was held with the GIS crew.

After the safety stand down, it was decided that every single board would be tied off with rope to prevent any boards from slipping out of the crew members hands, and the job was completed without further incident.

Incident Factors:

1. The hanging scaffold to be removed was in a tight area
2. Lines from the chiller piping sweat and drip onto the scaffolding causing a wet and slimy surface to the scaffold boards.
3. Demolition of scaffolding is considered a common task, and the planned work has been successful without incident in the past.
4. The level 3 rope access/fitter/scaffold builder has been an employee of GIS for three years, two years working on Perdido, and was in the 17th day of his hitch. Fatigue is not thought to be a factor in the incident. The GIS employee confirmed that they take frequent breaks when needed, and drink plenty of water to remain hydrated.
5. The platform construction job had been underway for some time and the fitter and the crew were not under any time pressure to complete the job.

Root Cause

1. Dripping from the chiller piping was not identified in the hazard recognition process

Recommended Actions

1. Tie off every board until the task was completed
 - a. Moving forward (for this client), scaffold boards are to be tied off to the structure and moved over a solid surface before untying.

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

SAFETY ALERT