



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 32-22

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## *Setting Clear Expectations and Following Them*

Many people say that our industry is “dangerous”. Some may even say that it’s too risky. But is any piece of equipment dangerous before we touch it? Even the largest and most “dangerous” pieces of equipment work fine by themselves and cause no harm to humans. The danger is only present when we step in and start to work with the equipment. We make the equipment dangerous. This is why we must create policies, procedures and work practice controls.

How many times have you opened something for you child (or yourself) and started to assemble it without reading the directions; only to find extra parts you needed to use in step 1 of the assembly once you’re finished putting it together? Now you’re left with two choices...disassemble it and do it right...or leave it that way and see if it does what it needs to do without falling apart or damaging something else.

In our work environment (whether at home or at the workplace, regardless of what we do for our profession), we take pride in accomplishing a task. It gives us a sense of wellbeing and accomplishment. However through time, we’ve come to the understanding that we as human beings are fallible. This means that we are not perfect and are likely to make mistakes or fail at some point. By understanding this, it allows us to try and make things easier by providing better instruction to complete tasks correct the first time in the safest way possible.

Recently, we had an incident where employees staged materials for a job task on a crane offshore. Materials were staged on the lower access pedestal and secured to the handrail to prevent interference with the crane. Additional materials were later brought there and also put in the same area, however stuck out a little more. Before the job task could be done, the crane crew needed to move some materials on the deck. During this process, the ladder for the crane made contact with the staged materials causing damage to the crane assess ladder.

As we look at this incident, we identify several areas where we could have done better. We do not feel anyone did anything intentionally wrong in this incident. However, we do feel we can do things better to prevent minor incidents like this from reoccurring. Clear and precise communication.

Often times we give vague instructions and “assume” whomever we’re giving those instructions to will “understand what we meant”. This leaves room for failure if we didn’t fully understand. Many times we think we understand and don’t want to “bother” someone with silly questions so we do what we “think” they meant. This result is we guess right...or we guess wrong.

When we give specific instructions on something, it leaves little room for individual decision making. However if we also give reasons for those specific instructions the person being directed shouldn’t feel that they’re “being told what to do” but rather provided with instructions to complete a task correctly.

Clear communication assures that the directions of a task are communicated in a way that not only tells us what we need to do but why we need to do it. This is called EDUCATION!

Please contact the HSE Department with any questions or concerns.



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

**SAFETY ALERT**