



# H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 41-25

Date: September 30, 2025

## Climbing or Standing on Midrails

A recent **Lifesaving Rule Violation** occurred on an offshore asset, prompting the issuance of this alert. A worker on an offshore platform was spotted standing on the midrail of a handrail in order to assess the scope of work for an upcoming job. **Stop Work** was called, and the rule violation was addressed with the worker. This became a **Working at Heights** issue, as the worker was not wearing fall protection for clearing the top of the handrail at the leading edge of an offshore platform.

GIS reminds everyone that standing on the midrail is absolutely prohibited. Not only is it incredibly unsafe, but it is a violation of both Customer policy and OSHA (and BSEE) Regulation.

### What OSHA and BSEE Say:

- Midrails must be installed halfway between the top rail and the walking surface **to act as a barrier** (29 CFR 1926.502(b)(2)).
- Midrails must be able to hold **150 lbs of force** (29 CFR 1926.502(b)(3)).
- OSHA requires safe access to heights using **ladders, stairs, or scaffolds** (29 CFR 1926.1053).

### What This Means for You:

- **Midrails and top rails are not designed to support your weight.**
- Standing, sitting, or climbing on them is a direct violation of OSHA and BSEE rules.
- Using them as steps or platforms can cause them to bend, break, or fail—leading to falls.

### Dangers of Climbing Midrails:

- **Fall Hazard** – loss of balance or rail failure = serious injury.
- **Dropped Objects** – unstable footing increases the chance of tools/materials falling.
- **System Damage** – rails bent or broken may not protect others.
- **Violations & Fines** – OSHA and BSEE can issue citations to employers and crews.

### Safe Practices Instead:

- Always use ladders, stairs, or scaffolds for proper access.
- Inspect guardrails regularly to ensure they remain intact.
- Report unsafe behavior or damaged rails immediately.

**Remember:** Midrails and top rails are there to protect you from falling, not to be climbed on. Using them the wrong way puts everyone at risk.



SAFETY ALERT