

Near-miss: Dropped object narrowly misses worker

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During some pipe work on the deckhead of a production platform, a spanner weighing 1.4 kg was dropped from the work place and fell 6 metres, landing only one metre from another worker.

What were the causes?

The **immediate causes** of this near-miss were that:

- the workplace was not adequately secured against the risk of dropped objects
- there was an opening in the grating allowing the object to fall.

Underlying causes noted were that:

- the work had been improperly managed and organised
- there had been no procedures in place for this type of work.

Lessons learnt

The resulting investigation made the following recommendations:

- Use should be made of checklists for safe work at heights
- Checks should be made and, where necessary, deficient floor grating should be repaired
- Clear marking out of barriers in areas below working areas should be ensured
- Permit to work systems should be correctly adhered to.

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