

Man overboard: personnel transfers by swing rope and personnel basket

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The United States' Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) has published [Safety Alert 331](#) on personnel transfers using swing rope and personnel basket.

It relates to a swing rope transfer in the Gulf of Mexico between a platform and a boat, when a person fell into the sea. The person was recovered swiftly by a small boat but was injured and subsequently diagnosed with a torn ligament in his elbow requiring surgery.

BSEE subsequently revisited incident data to determine the frequency of personnel transfer incidents in 2017. The safety alert covers a number of recent incidents

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls



Work authorisation



BSEE inspector's photograph of swing rope in place on a Gulf of Mexico facility

What actions were taken? What lessons were learned?

Due to the frequency of personnel transfer events noted, and their potential consequences, BSEE made recommendations which are summarised thus:

- Review the BSEE safety alert with all personnel who transfer to facilities via swing rope or personnel baskets;
- Before personnel transfer, inspect and test all hardware associated with the operation and report any deficiencies found;
- Stress the significance of patience, weather and sea conditions, and the use of the 'stop work authority';

- Consider developing fitness for duty requirements for personnel involved in transfers.

Safety Alert 331 can be found on the [BSSE website](#).

IMCA Safety Flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing lessons to be more easily learnt for the benefit of the entire offshore industry.

The effectiveness of the IMCA Safety Flash system depends on the industry sharing information and so avoiding repeat incidents. Incidents are classified according to IOGP's Life Saving Rules.

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