

Serious working at height incidents

Safety Flash Published on 20 December 2013 Generated on 25 April 2025 IMCA SF 18/13

A Member has reported a number of serious working at height incidents, resulting in a fatality and five Lost Time Injuries (LTIs).

The member would like to raise awareness of the risks associated with working with heights.

Incident 1 – LTI

An employee of a sub-contractor slipped and fell 15 m resulting in a brain haemorrhage and leg fracture.

Incident 2 – LTI

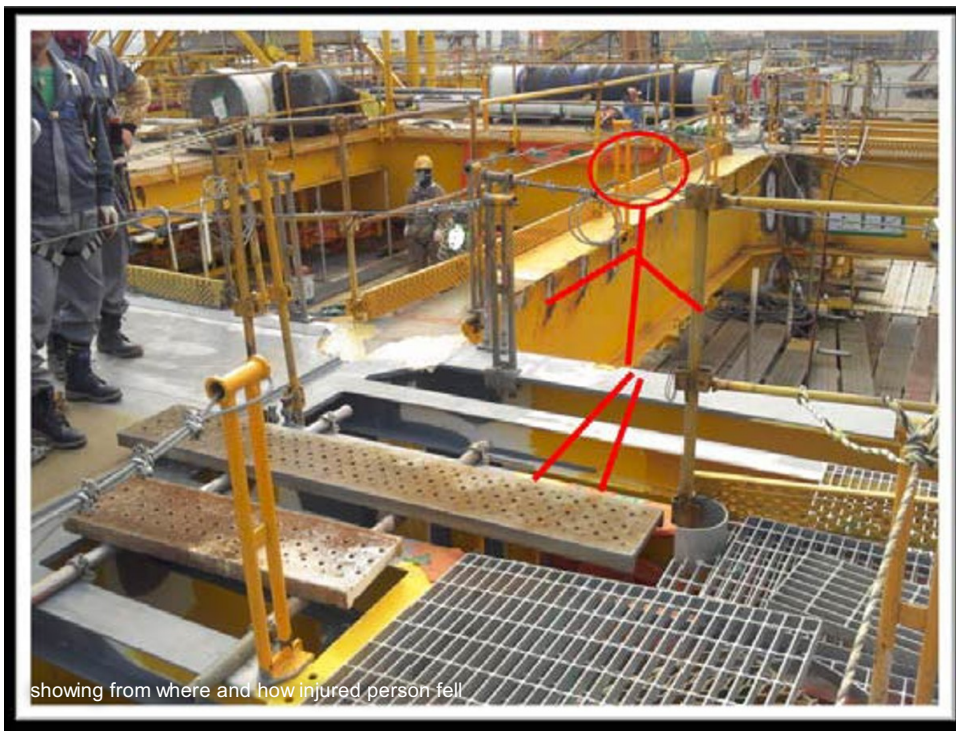
The injured person stood on a cardboard box to access the racking shelves in the storage area, of an onshore yard. Consequently, the injured person fell from the box and suffered a broken wrist and fractured elbow.



internal storage area at onshore site

Incident 3 – LTI in Shipyard

The injured person was attempting to transit an unsecured walkway and fell a distance of 1.7 m. The person fell onto the scaffold structure below; the fall resulted in four broken ribs.



Incident 4 – LTI on Offshore Vessel

In the fourth incident, a deck hand slipped and fell down a ladder leading from the deck to the paint store. He was found at the foot of the ladder in pain and unable to move, subsequently he required a medevac.

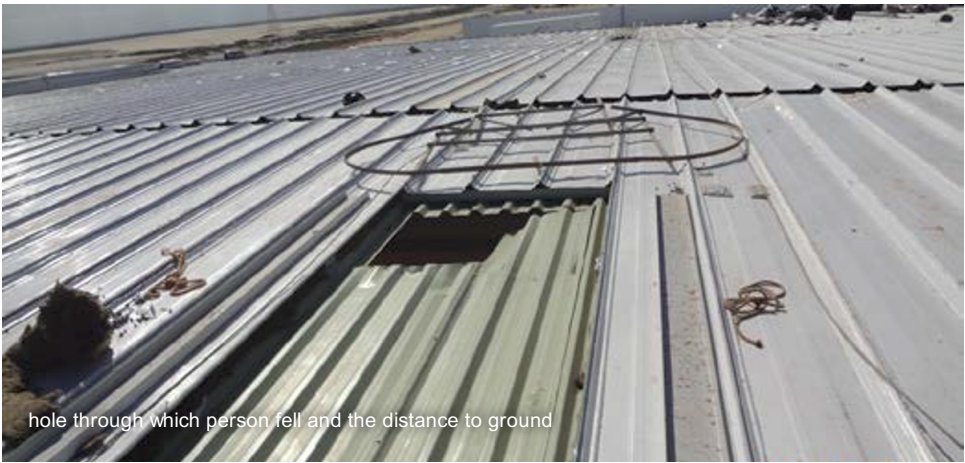
Incident 5 – Fall on the same level: LTI on offshore vessel

The injured person stepped down onto exposed hose-work from the ROV launch and recovery system (LARS). The person skidded onto the deck and slipped. The impact resulted in two minor fractures to the bones in right arm.



Incident 6 – Fall from height fatality

Whilst installing a ventilation system an employee of a sub-contractor, fell from the roof of a building. The person fell approximately 22 m and died as a result. The employee was equipped with a safety harness; neither of the two lanyards had been attached to the adjacent life-lines.



hole through which person fell and the distance to ground



hole through which person fell and the distance to ground

Lessons learnt

Our Member summarised that irrespective of the height, the potential

consequence of a fall can be extremely severe and the above cases are clear evidence of this. A fall from a height is entirely avoidable if procedures are followed, risk assessments and tool box talks are conducted also suitable and sufficient mitigation is in place.

Our Member recommended the following:

- Implement the conditions of the Permit to Work, consider operations which may be undertaken concurrently with others.
- Ensure personnel are suitably qualified and experienced.
- Provide adequate supervision.
- Use appropriate working at height equipment and tooling.
- Conduct a toolbox talk.
- If in doubt 'stop the job' and re-assess.

Members' attention is also drawn to the wide range of IMCA safety promotional materials, which will be of use in mitigating risks of this sort, including:

- [Preventing slips and trips](#) (pocket card)
- [Toolbox talks](#) (video, pocket card)
- [Working at height](#) (video, pocket card, safe use of ladders poster)
- [Workplace safety self-assessment](#) (pocket card)
- [Permit to work](#) (pocket card)
- [Preventing slips, trips and falls](#) (video, poster)
- Risk assessment (video)

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