

Safety Alert

Number: 26-10

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Subject: Deck Hatch Fastening Arrangement Dropped into Tank

What Happened / Narrative

During off-hire tank cleaning operations, a lower fastening frame securing a deck hatch detached from its hinge arrangement and fell 6.8 meters into the tank while an external contractor was inside.

The frame landed approximately one meter behind the worker, without injury. The frame was secured by a single hinge bolt, with no safety pin or secondary retention fitted. Despite the incident, tank-cleaning activities continued, and the permit to work was not immediately suspended.

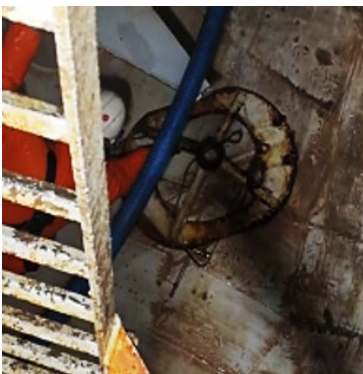
Why Did it Happen / Cause

- Frame design relied on a **single securing point**, with no secondary retention.
- **Unsuitable hinge bolts** installed, with missing safety pins and instructions.
- **Long-term corrosion and degradation** of hinge arrangement went unaddressed.
- Inspections/Planned Maintenance System **did not include removable frames and hinge arrangements**.
- Tank-entry Risk Assessment **failed to identify overhead dropped-object hazards**.
- A **similar previous incident was not reported**, preventing learnings.
- **Stop Work Obligation was not effectively applied** after the incident.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

- Removable frames and overhead structures must **always be treated as potential dropped-object hazards**.
- Equipment design must **not rely on a single point of failure**.
- **Secondary retention is required** where dropped-object risk exists.
- Risk assessments must reflect **actual physical hazards**, not only the planned task.
- **Stop Work Obligation must be exercised immediately** following any abnormal or unsafe event.
- **Near misses and abnormal conditions must be reported and escalated without delay**.

Photographs / Supporting Information



Ask Yourself and Your Crew:

1. Are company procedures, risk assessments and securing controls fully understood and applied at every step of the job?
2. Have all overhead hazards been identified and secured/removed before work begins (i.e. dropped objects, structural conditions)?
3. Is Stop Work Obligation clearly understood and exercised whenever uncertainty or risk is identified?

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