

INCIDENT SHARING – FALL FROM HEIGHT

Case: Fall from height while rope ladder

A worker was climbing up a vertical rope ladder to exit a reactor from the overhead reactor manhole after dismantling a metal scaffold inside. On the way up, he fell and landed at the base of the reactor. The worker was immediately extracted but he subsequently died on the way to the hospital.

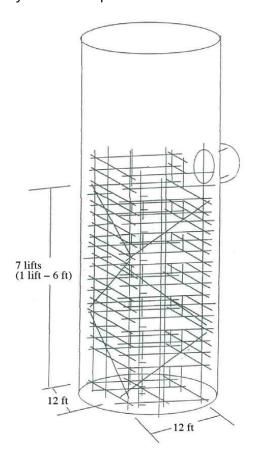


Figure 1: Metal scaffold that was inside the reactor before dismantling.

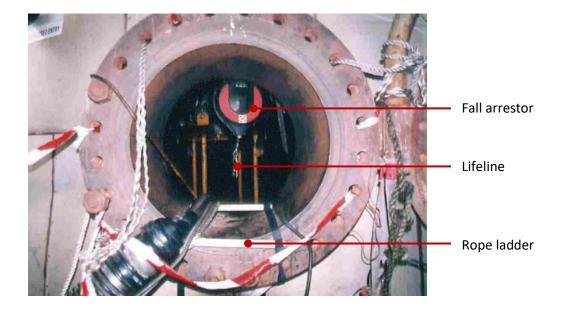


Figure 2: Close-up view of the reactor manhole.

Lessons learnt

To prevent such accidents, workers are reminded to:

- Obtain a copy of the Permit-To-Work (PTW) in confined space and ensure that conditions (such as sufficient lighting and adequate ventilation) are met before starting work;
- Ensure that you are medically fit for strenuous work activities such as using the rope ladder;
- Follow safe work procedures and properly secure your body harness before using the rope ladder. Check if your co-worker has attached his body harness to the lifeline as well;
- Check with your buddy to verify that your body harness is attached to the lifeline before climbing the rope ladder; and
- Use a fixed ladder instead of a rope ladder if available.

This write-up is part of a series of incident sharing for workers brought to you by the Workplace Safety and Health Council and the Ministry of Manpower.