



Learning Event



Dropped Object

Hazard
Objects at Height

led to

Unwanted Event
Dropped Object

Description

The industry has recently experienced incidents where objects have fallen from height on rig sites.

Some of these events have involved objects that should not have been left in a position to fall (e.g. lifting adaptors, forgotten tools). Other events involve mechanical failures (e.g. gantry crane, brake linkage system, shackle, drill line).

Fortunately the dropped objects have not fallen onto workers below.



Risk Event Statement

Due to objects being left in a position to fall or mechanical failures, objects may fall from height and strike personnel leading to serious injuries or a fatality.



Habits

- ✓ Observations / interventions completed
- ✓ Barricades utilised
- ✗ Not securing all tools and equipment
- ✗ Drift from standard operating procedures



Learnings

- Deficiencies in lifting equipment maintenance
- Improper installation / commissioning; lack of pre-inspection
- Leaving unnecessary equipment at heights
- Failure in Management of Change processes - change in equipment/ procedures /operating conditions
- Lack of secondary restraint



Considerations

- > A DROPS Management System must be in place at the rig site. The Safer Together DROPS Management System Self Assessment Guideline provides a useful tool to identify and manage the risks associated with dropped objects on a rig site.
- > All workers on a rig site must be able to identify when work changes and must know what they are expected to do in order to safely manage the change.

Could this happen to you?

- > How do you know objects at height above your work area are secure?
- > What has recently changed with your work equipment / process that could cause objects to fall from height - both static (could fall under their own weight without any applied force e.g. corrosion, inadequately secured) and/or dynamic (falls due to applied force e.g. travelling equipment/loads, severe weather)?
- > What items are you checking every time travel equipment is moving (up & down)?