

Worker Falls from Scaffold Ladder

Description of Incident (Occurred July 26, 2021; incident did not occur offshore Atlantic Canada but the learnings are applicable to offshore operations)

An employee was descending a previously erected scaffold ladder from a work platform height of approximately 20 feet. When the employee was at a height of approximately 13 feet from the level below, the employee lost balance and fell backwards to the level below.

The scaffold ladder was properly installed, in good condition, and in accordance with regulatory requirements, however, was not in compliance with site requirements. The site required Self Retracting Lanyards (SRLs) to be used on temporary ladders. The investigation into this incident showed that the site requirement for SRLs was not properly communicated and documented training was not provided. In addition, ladder cages were required as per site standards however were not required per regulatory requirements and had not been installed.

Corrective Actions & Recommendations

Fall protection must be installed as per site and regulatory requirements, ensuring that the most stringent requirements are applied. All requirements must be properly communicated, and training provided, to ensure personnel can safely use the equipment that is installed. Detailed assurance and verification activities must take place to validate that site requirements are being met.

Applicable Lifesaving Rule

IOGP's lifesaving rule on [Working at Height](#) relates to this incident. [Read more](#) about IOGP's lifesaving rules.

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[Read more](#) Atlantic Canada Offshore Safety Alerts.