SAFETY ALERT

OISD/SA/2024-25/P&E/02 14/05/2024

INTRODUCTION

Title: Fatal accident due to fall from height.

Location: Refinery

Loss/ Outcome: Fatality of a contract worker

BRIEF OF INCIDENT:

The incident happened in a process unit, which was under completion stage with pre-commissioning activities undergoing in parallel. A contract worker was doing insulation lagging work of a pipeline on pipe-rack at 6 M height. After finishing the assigned job on the pipe-rack, he detached both the anchor hooks of the safety harness and took a shortcut route to get down, through a red tagged scaffolding erected nearby. While getting down, he slipped and fell. He was immediately shifted to refinery hospital and after administering first-aid, was shifted to hospital in city, where he succumbed to his injuries after 12 days.

OBSERVATIONS/ SHORTCOMINGS

- The contract worker (injured person) was working on a pipe rack along with two other workers. All three climbed through a ladder, which was provided for the purpose.
- Lifeline was provided along the pipe rack till the ladder.
- All three workers were using full body harness along with other normal PPEs.
- After completion of job, the other two workers used the ladder to get down, whereas the injured person (IP) took a shortcut instead of the designated safe route, through the ladder.
- The IP held the hook & lanyard of safety belt in one hand and tried to take support of the incomplete and red tagged (not fit for use) scaffolding pipe by other hand.
- The scaffolding pipe, which was clamped to beam, dislodged when the IP tried to take its support.
- The red tag marked at scaffolding was on floor side and might not have been noticed by the IP.
- Safety supervisor was not present at the time of incident.
- Victim had not undergone vertigo test as required by the company's policy for personnel to work at height.
- Provision for secured platform for safe and easy movement of workmen at height was inadequate. The same was also highlighted in the JSA.

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ROOT CAUSE OF FAILURE / CONCLUSION

- Taking shortcut through a non-designated and unsafe route.
- Inadequate supervision and monitoring, disregard of JSA

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Behavioural issue like taking shortcuts to be addressed through monitoring and reporting of unsafe acts. Monitoring of unsafe acts to be enhanced by means of encouragement and training of personnel along with CCTV footage scrutiny or adoption of AI techniques.
- Safe working platform and proper access to work site should be ensured before giving permit/ clearance.
- JSA recommendations to be complied and it should be a part of daily toolbox talk. It shall also be ensured that workers have understood the same.
- TBTs should also talk about specific hazards related to the job, including those that can emanate from the surrounding area.
- Workmen should be aware of the green tagged and red tagged scaffoldings in the work area before using them.
- All workmen engaged for work at height must undergo the medical tests prescribed as per company policy.

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