



HSE ALERT



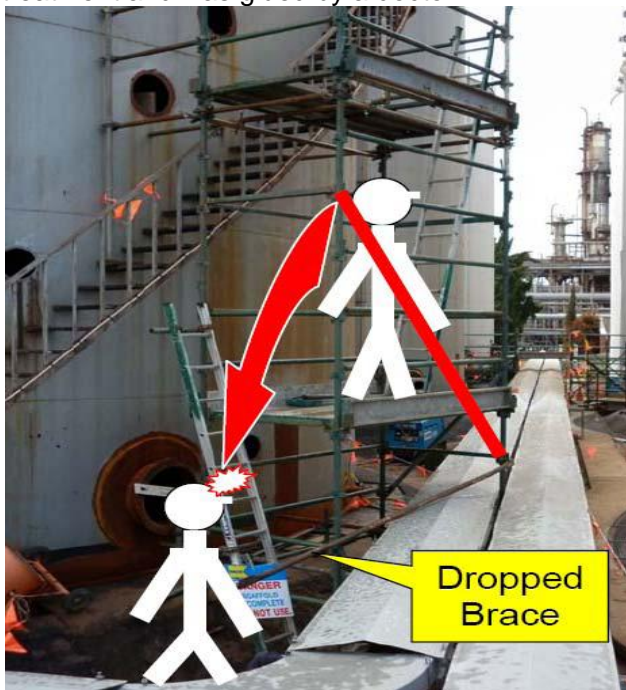
16 February 2011

SCAFFOLD MEDICAL TREATMENT – LINE OF FIRE

The Incident:

On 10th of February 2011 a scaffold crew were constructing a scaffold on the outside of Tank 4621. During this task a 45° brace tube was knocked with a ledger and the top clip became dislodged and swung down pivoting from the lower clip.

A scaffolder was standing below and the full force of the brace struck him on the helmet glancing across his face. He sustained some facial abrasions and a split upper lip. His upper lip required medical treatment and was glued by a doctor.



What went Wrong?

- The scaffold component became dislodged during construction. An investigation is under way to find the root causes.
- To our knowledge, historically this type of incident has not happened before so awareness was low. Line of Fire was not recognised and, therefore, not controlled.

The Potential:

The weight and force of the scaffold tube could have caused a much more serious injury. The helmet worn took most of the force fracturing the brim and slightly deflecting the tube lessening the impact to the face.



What can we learn?

- The correct use of PPE was invaluable.
- We must always be focused. Many incidents happen for the first time with no previous experience or in unusual circumstances. We need to be wise before an event.
- Line of fire must always be considered even if you deem equipment, etc. is secure. Sometimes things can come loose.
- When working above your team members ask them to step back out of the way if there is the slightest possibility that they may be in the line of fire. This can be a difficult call. If you are asked to step out of the way just do it. This could be a valuable Intervention.



Does My Practice take Us toward Goal Zero and a Sustainable Business?