

Near Miss - Falling Object

WHAT HAPPENED

During a maintenance task on a piece of fixed plant, a Fitter was replacing a steel wear plate at the top of an aggregate elevator at a height of 33 metres.

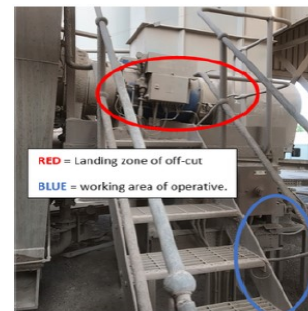
When the Fitter came to adjust the plate a sliver of metal fell through an open mesh and landed directly below on a platform where an operative was performing a greasing task close by.

Had the strip of Hardox steel plate struck the employee, there would have been a potential for serious injury.

Incident facts:

- The RAMS for the task noted cutting the steel plate at ground level, and not at height.
- The task changed during the activity and not been noted on the Risk Assessment.
- No cordoned zone was established below when the task changed and no checks made by the fitter.

- The off-cut fell through open mesh flooring at height, missing an operative by 1 metre.
- The Fitter did not advise site Management of the task change but proceeded anyway.
- RAMS controls became ineffective as a result.
- Permit to Work - Hot works became ineffective



LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- Fitter re-inducted and trained in the process to follow.
- Review of contractual relationship with fitting contractor.
- Local Management re-trained in the Risk Assessment process.
- Implementation of a mid-task checklist for supervisory staff to carry out and audit checks during completion.

LOCATION: ASPHALT/COATING PLANT
ACTIVITY: MAINTENANCE & HOUSEKEEPING
SUB ACTIVITY: N/A

ALERT STATUS: Normal
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