



# SAFETY FEEDBACK NOTICE

## FALLS



GP

DGEP / SE

Ref: 13 - 2004

Issued: 23/6/04

### Introduction

In 2003 there were 146 Lost Time Accidents in Total EP operations, 40 (27%) of these were due to falls. In 2004 this trend has continued: 9 out of 36 LTA's reported so far involve falls. There have also been many falls that resulted in minor injuries. Falls includes falls on the same level and falls from height. Some of the latter have been from considerable heights and resulted in serious injuries.

### Some Accidents

A man fell 9m after using a boom line to ride up a drilling rig V door. Injuries: broken arm, broken leg, dislocated shoulder.

A crane operator fell 5m when descending a ladder. Injury: cerebral trauma and skull injury. See photo opposite.

Person fell 4.5m while climbing a ladder with a box under his arm. Four fractured vertebrae.

A geologist stumbled on the stairs, fell and suffered a double fracture of her arm.

A cook slipped on the oily kitchen floor. He broke his arm when he fell.

Worker fell 5,5m when he stepped on the end of an overhanging, unsecured scaffold board. Injury: broken leg and wrist.



### Common Causes

There are some common causes apparent when analysing accident reports for falls:

- Condition of Ladders - dirty and slippery rungs; design not conforming to Specifications.
- Lack of Safety Awareness / Poor Safety Behaviour – eg personnel using equipment not for its intended purpose; carrying things when on ladders.
- Environmental Conditions – icy conditions in cold climate countries.
- Housekeeping and Workplace Preparation – slippery floors because they have not been cleaned, trip hazards not cleared up.
- Small Platforms – working on small platforms that topple over, or are easy to slip off.

### Recommended Actions

Affiliates are advised to take the following actions:

#### Design and Construction

- Fixed ladders should conform to GS STR 901 Design Rules and Construction Standards for Ancillary Structures of Offshore Installations. In particular rungs should be located away from I-beams and other items that may restrict hand and foot holds.
- Scaffolds must be designed, constructed inspected and used in accordance with accepted standards eg see GS PJC 401 HSE on Construction and Installation Sites.
- Special care must be taken when working from small platforms. They must be stable and have a “footer” to prevent people’s feet slipping off.

 <b>TOTAL</b>	<b>SAFETY FEEDBACK NOTICE</b>		
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### Control of Work at Height

- Ensure that procedures are in place to control work at height and that they are properly applied.
- Perform job safety assessments for all work at height. Review if the work is really needed and if so what are the safest options for access: scaffolding, “cherry picker”, ladder, rope access etc, and what additional safety precautions are required e.g. fall arrest equipment.
- See Rule 5 Work at Height in the 10 Key Site Safety Rules booklet. This gives the main safety points for using scaffolding/fixed platforms, mobile platforms, fall arrest equipment and man-riding operations.

### Safety Behaviour

- Raise safety awareness of the risks of working at height. Pre-job safety meetings and campaigns can be used for this. You can find useful material at the following website – [www.hse.gov.uk/falls/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/index.htm)
- Personnel must accept responsibility for their own safety and never, for example, engage in horseplay with lifting gear.

### Practicalities

- Personnel must be trained in the use of equipment (fall arrest etc) and be adequately supervised.
- For portable ladders if the rake is greater than 4:1 a safety harness should be used.
- Never carry anything when on any ladder – use mechanical lifting devices or hand lines to move objects. Always maintain “three points” of contact when on ladders.
- Maintain good standards of housekeeping: equipment that could be a trip hazard must be cleared away or cordoned off. Floors must be kept clean and slip-free, especially kitchens and mess rooms.
- Monitor weather conditions and watch out for ice. Take precautions – spread grit etc.
- Take care when on stairs. Using a handrail is strongly recommended.