

ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Accident Type:Fall from derrick
Weather Conditions/Time of Day:Not reported
Type of Operation:Tripping pipe into well
Size of Work Crew:5
Worksite Inspection Conducted by Employer: Yes
Competent Safety Monitoring on Site: Yes
Safety and Health Program in Effect: Yes
Training and Education for Employees: Yes
Job Title of Deceased Employee:Derrickman
Age/Sex of Deceased Employee:29/M
Time on Job:4 Years
Short Service Employee (< 1 year): No
Time at Task: 4 hours

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACCIDENT

A derrickman was working on the derrick board of a rig. After taking a break, the derrickman climbed back up to the derrick board and did not attach his fall protection device after unhooking from the climb assist. The worker grabbed the first stand of pipe with the tail rope which helped keep his balance as the elevators were being sent up to attach to the pipe. When he released the tail rope, he lost his balance and fell 90 ft. to the rig floor, where he was fatally injured.

ACCIDENT PREVENTION

1. Ensure that all employees that work at elevations above the ground or adjacent surfaces such as a rig floor, are protected at all times from falling by guardrail systems, safety net systems, or personal fall arrest systems (PFAS). See 29 CFR 1910.23.
2. Evaluate the worksite to identify jobs and locations where workers might be exposed to fall hazards.
3. Instruct all workers in the hazards of working at elevations and how to properly use personal fall arrest systems (PFAS).
4. Implement work rules which instruct workers that they must use fall protection equipment (e.g., ladder climbing assist devices; PFAS, etc.) when they are working at elevations.
5. Inspect all fall-related equipment (guardrails, ladders, PFAS) to make sure that they are not damaged or deteriorated.

Note: The described case was selected as being representative of improper work practices which likely contributed to a fatality from an accident. The accident prevention recommendations do not necessarily reflect the outcome of any legal aspects of the incident case. OSHA encourages your company or organization to duplicate and share this information.



You Have a Voice in the Workplace

The *Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970* affords workers the right to a safe workplace (see OSHA's **Worker Rights** page, www.osha.gov/workers.html). Workers also have the right to file a complaint with OSHA if they believe that there are either violations of OSHA standards or serious workplace hazards.

How OSHA Can Help

For questions or to get information or advice, to report an emergency, report a fatality or catastrophe, or to file a confidential complaint, contact your nearest OSHA office, visit www.osha.gov or call our toll-free number at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), TTY 1-877-889-5627. It's confidential.

More Information

Upstream oil and gas safety and health:
www.osha.gov/SLTC/oilgaswell/drilling/index.html

OSHA standards and regulations:
www.osha.gov/law-regs.html

OSHA publications:
www.osha.gov/publications

OSHA's free On-site Consultation services:
www.osha.gov/consultation

Training resources:
www.osha.gov/dte/index.html

