



Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

ALERT 05 – 28

FATAL INCIDENT RESULTS FROM REMOVED DECK OPENING COVER

WHAT HAPPENED:

A team of 2 subcontractor workers was installing insulation material on piping in the top slab level inside A60 shaft of a concrete base structure. It is believed that one of the workers decided that he needed a board to use for cutting or storing of insulation material. The worker saw a 9 mm plywood board lying on the floor, picked it up on one side and started to shake off sandblasting grit from it. As he was lifting the board (approximately 10 kg) he made a step forward and fell into a manhole in the floor that the board he removed was covering. He fell into the 3 foot (1 m) diameter hole, falling about 40 feet (12 meters) down to a concrete floor and hitting some piping on his way down. The worker received fatal injuries and died in the ambulance on the way to hospital. The worker died due to severe injuries.

WHAT CAUSED IT:

The initial investigation showed that the safety barriers guarding the manhole were removed and not reinstalled in place by previous teams working in the area.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

Lesson Learned

Incident investigation is still ongoing. However, some preliminary recommendations can be drawn at this stage:-

- Ensure there is a documented and functioning isolation process in place to manage removal and reinstallation of safety barriers.
- Ensure that manholes/openings in the floor have identifiable covers that can be locked in place, where possible.
- Prevent work in bad lighting, STOP the work if you feel that lighting is inadequate.
- Ensure people understand the important and practice good housekeeping at worksite.
- Identify needs for accessing manholes and openings at the design stage and provide built in design safety features.



A board covering the manhole. The incident area in similar lighting conditions



Barriers around the manhole after the incident with general lighting on



The manhole

IADC Note: See Alerts 99-01 and 02-48

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices

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