WHAT HAPPENED:

Injured person (IP) had just completed untying a double stand of drill pipe that was lashed to the derrick. IP connected full body harness to the cable sleeve of the fall-arrest system and started to descend the derrick ladder when his foot slipped on a rung, causing him to fall 6-7 ft. (approx. 2 m) to the intermediary platform below.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

The installed fall-arrest system failed to stop IP’s fall over a 6-7ft. distance.

The fall-arrest manufacturer’s technical specifications indicate that it may not stop a fall immediately and that a minimum clearance of 7ft. (2m) is required between the user’s feet and the surface below for the system to stop the fall of an average person.

LESSONS LEARNED:

The company reinforced to its employees to always maintain three points of contact (with hands and feet) while ascending or descending a ladder and to follow the manufacturer’s instructions for the use, inspection and maintenance of fall protection equipment.

A Safety Alert can consist of any type of health, safety & environment (HSE) notification or Near Miss/Near Hit alert. Proactive Alerts on jobs well done are also encouraged.