

FATAL ALERT

September 3, 2005

On September 3, 2005, a snubbing specialist was fatally injured when he fell from the snubbing operation work platform approximately 47 feet to the ground. At the time of the accident, the employee was in the snubbing operation work platform and was working the controls as directed so the mechanic could repair or make adjustments to the power pack located on the ground. The employee either fell through an open entry/exit hatch on the snubbing operation work platform, was leaning over the railing of the snubbing operation work platform, or was climbing down the ladder when he fell. Employee was not wearing adequate fall protection (harness not hooked to lanyard) when he fell. There were five employees on the ground around the power pack when the accident occurred. None of the employees actually saw the deceased fall.

Significant Factors:

The four most likely scenarios as to what happened are as follows:

Scenario 1: Deceased was starting to climb back down from the snubbing basket platform and slipped and fell through the hatch door opening to the ground.

Scenario 2: Deceased was walking from one end of the snubbing basket platform to the other and forgot to close the hatch and fell through the hatch door opening to the ground.

Scenario 3: Deceased leaned over the railing of the snubbing basket platform to reach for something and fell out over the railing to the ground.

Scenario 4: Deceased started climbing down the ladder and did not attach to the retractable lifeline and slipped and fell to the ground.

Recommendations:

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal mishap.
- Brief/retrain all employees to wear fall protection when climbing the platform ladders.
- Brief/retrain all employees on wearing fall protection when working in the snubbing operation work platform when the hatch is open or leaning over the railing. Remind employees to always close the hatch after entering the platform.
- Brief employees on the hazards found during this investigation.
- Ensure site management personnel enforce the requirements of Wyoming's Rules & Regulations for Oil & Gas Well Drilling and the company's requirement for using fall protection.
- Reconfigure the personal fall arrest system location from under the snubbing operation work platform to either run through the hatch door opening or outside and above the snubbing operation work platform with a redesigned ladder configuration for fall protection.