



Operational Alerts inform Signal Mutual Members of serious incidents within the Mutual that resulted in permanent disability, death, or a significant near miss. If you have similar operations, please share this Operational Alert and have a safety discussion with operation managers, supervisors, equipment operators, and all affected employees. It is imperative that management review their operational controls at all levels to mitigate similar hazardous conditions and/or acts.

INCIDENT: FALL FROM LADDER RESULTS IN SEVERE INJURIES

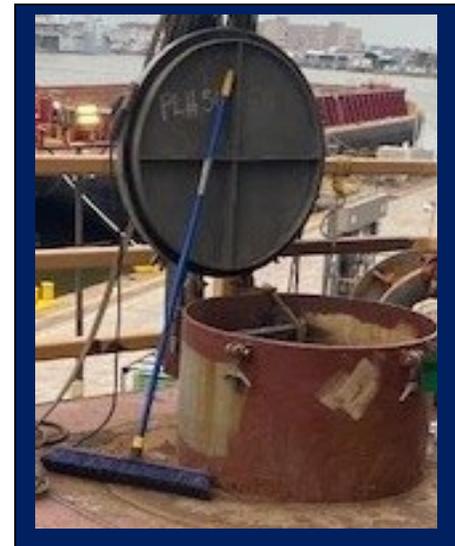
SUMMARY OF RECENT INCIDENT

A welder was seriously injured from a fall of approximately 20 feet that occurred while descending a fixed ladder into a tank.

The employee entered the tank and onto the fixed ladder through a raised deck hatch. The worker stated that while he was still on the uppermost portion of the ladder, he stopped to adjust his gloves. In order to do so, he intended to brace himself by pushing his back against the coaming with both feet on a ladder rung, thereby freeing up his hands. The worker was actually positioned lower on the ladder than he realized and was no longer surrounded by the coaming. When he released his grip, he fell backward into the tank.

At the time of the incident, scaffolding was erected throughout the tank. As the worker fell, he hit the scaffolding as he descended the 20 foot distance, ultimately striking the tanktop.

The fall resulted in multiple fractures, lacerations, and contusions. Fortunately the injuries were not life threatening, however, they were severe enough to require surgery and long term health consequences are expected.



CONSIDERATIONS

Falls from heights are among the leading causes of serious injuries and fatalities in our industry and workplaces nationally. Slips, Trips, and Falls were the second highest cause of fatality in United States workplaces in 2021 (approx. 17% of all fatalities).

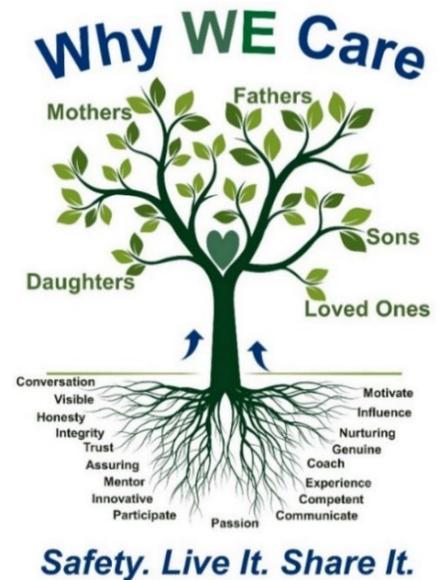
Always be aware of your surroundings. Too often employees fall through an open hatch, are too close to a unprotected edge, walk backwards into a fall hazard, or trip over something they don't see when walking backward or carrying materials that obstruct their view. Always look 360 around you before moving.

Always use and maintain three points of contact when climbing or descending a ladder. This requires two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot being in direct contact with the ladder **at all times**.

Avoid carrying anything when climbing or descending. As part of JSA determine best manner to move materials in and out of tanks and holds.

Always inspect vessel and barge ladders prior to use to ensure they are safe for workers.

Use appropriate fall prevention or arrest systems when working at heights of five feet or greater or transiting on unguarded surfaces. Ask your supervisor or HSE Coordinator for more information or assistance if needed.



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