

JURONG PORT SAFETY BULLETIN – JANUARY 2008 INCIDENT CASE STUDY#2: FALLING FROM HEIGHT

What Happened?

While discharging steel beams from twin deck to the wharf deck, the injured worker fell from twin deck hatch opening to the cargo hold deck. He suffered a cut on his right forehead above the eyebrow, bruises on his right elbow, fracture on his skull and he complained pain from his right thigh up to his groin. He was rushed to the hospital where he undergone operation.

What went wrong?

Sub-standard Action:

1. Eye on the Path. The injured worker failed to see the opening while avoiding the suspended load.

Sub-standard condition:

1. Inadequate guards/barriers. The injured worker fell through unguarded opening (missing hatch panel covers).
2. Inadequate Illumination. The workers claimed that the lighting near the opening is insufficient.

Personal Factors:

1. Vision deficiencies. The injured worker is suspected to fail to notice/see the opening due to insufficient lighting.

Work Factors:

1. Inadequate orientation. The SLO/Foreman failed to brief his workers on the risk assessment.
2. Inadequate identification of loss exposure. The SLO/Foreman failed to notice the big opening on the twin deck and failed to warn the workers.

Lack of Control:

1. **Risk Assessment.** Risk assessment did not address the hatch environment/condition.
2. **Communication.** Risk assessment was not communicated to the workers.
3. **Supervision.** Supervisor failed to assess the working environment (twin deck) prior to work commencement

>>Advisory Note

(Please note that the advisory note is provided to enhance workplace safety and health. In no way is the information to be misconstrued as implying liability on any party)

Preventive Measures

1. Supervisor/Foreman to check worksite and rectify unsafe conditions before start of operation.
2. Conduct risk assessment based on worksite inspection and orientate workers.
3. Provide adequate lighting in worksites during night operations.
4. Keep an eye on the path while walking/working in hatches or cargo hold areas where lighting is inadequate.



The injured worker fell from an opening in the twin deck. He suffered head injury.