



Lessons Learned Report – Shah Deniz PU SD 02/05

Near Miss– Painter hit by dropped object

Type of Incident: Near Miss – High risk potential

Business Unit: Shah Deniz Gas Export Project

Country: Azerbaijan

Location of Incident: Zykh 3, Baku, Azerbaijan

Date of Incident: 15.04.2004

Brief Account of Incident:

Simultaneous work involving scaffold cleaning, removal of cables from a welding machine, and a painting crew was underway at the 50m high leg base 2 of the TPG 500 under construction at the Zykh fabrication yard in Baku. A painter working at ground level was hit on his hard hat by an object dropped from a height of 30 to 50m.

Losses:

The hard hat was penetrated by the dropped object, but prevented the painter from suffering any physical injuries.

Potential Outcome:

Lost Time Injury or temporary / permanent partial disability.



Critical Factors

- Not all control of work procedures had been approved for use, and basic HSE requirements contained in the draft versions had not been implemented at site.
- A risk assessment associated with simultaneous operations had not been completed. The Simultaneous Operations procedure did not address dropped objects.
- A general Permit to Work was issued without a risk assessment addressing simultaneous operations and access control to a high risk work area.
- Tool box talks were general in nature and not specific to the actual work on leg base 2.
- Inadequate communication between supervisors and crews at the leg base 2 work site relating to simultaneous operations.
- Housekeeping issues relating to accumulations of debris and scrap at heights on scaffolds and access platforms.

The result of procedural and implementation weaknesses and lack of risk assessments and communication between work crews led to work being performed without work crews paying sufficient attention to the other activities in the leg base 2 area.

What Went Right:

- All crews wearing proper PPE.
- IP quickly removed to medic for examination.
- Site HSE personnel quickly on scene.
- Work stopped on the leg base while the exclusion zone around the leg base was widened and barriered with a chain.

What Went Wrong:

- Incident scene not preserved for investigation team.
- Not all interviews conducted in timely manner.

Golden Rules of Safety:

- Getting the Basics Right:
Work will not be conducted without a pre-job risk assessment and a safety discussion appropriate for the level of risk.

Immediate Actions to Prevent Recurrence:

1. Relevant control of work procedures in draft form to be reviewed and issued for use.
2. Develop and implement an access control system for high risk barriered areas.
3. Ensure Area Responsible Person is identified and coordinates simultaneous operations.
4. Ensure all crews are aware of simultaneous operations in the area where they are working.
5. Ensure simultaneous operations include a risk assessment for dropped objects.
6. Improve housekeeping on scaffolds and work platforms.
7. Do not allow people to work underneath scaffolders or cleaners, unless adequate protection for dropped objects is in place.
8. Establish clear HSE responsibilities for all activities at site.