

Safety Awareness Topic of the Month

Working at Heights

A recent inspection carried out highlighted several critical findings concerning working on heights and the use of overhead hang off points.

Whilst observing the progress of the work on a well control system's components (namely the Choke and Kill manifolds) it was noted that the crew working at heights, removing the valves and pipe work were utilising fall arrest harnesses with double lanyards.

However, at times unsuitable hang-off points were utilised which were lower than waist height. This was mainly due to the lack of suitable overhead hang-off points available above the area of work.



We'd feel a lot better waving back if he was wearing a harness!

The issue was discussed with the drilling contractor's responsible supervisor and the suggestion was made that retractable fall arrest lanyard reels (Sala-type blocks) should be utilised.

Overhead beams and other suitable overhead attachment points were available at several locations from which retractable fall arrest lanyard reels could be hung. Utilisation of these provided the workers the ability to be permanently attached to a fall arrest system whilst working at height, without the use of double lanyards and the necessity to look for suitable hang-off points when moving around the work area.

Self-retracting lanyards and safety harnesses may be used with a static line or fixed anchorages.

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