

LACK OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT PROVES FATAL

The Story

Here are summaries of a few preventable offshore fatalities that were caused by drowning:

1. Two workers on a platform were welding braces to a 20-inch conductor pipe at a height of 12 feet above water. Three other welders were removing 8-by 1/2-inch triangular guides from the same pipe at the top deck level. Only one of the two welders below wore a hard hat, and neither wore the work vest required by written company policy. Both workers below were aware that men were working above them. One of the welders working at the top deck level was unable to hold on to a guide as it was removed. It fell through a 10-inch-wide clearance around the conductor pipe and struck one of the welders below (the one not wearing a hard hat) on the head. He fell over backwards into the water. An autopsy attributed death to drowning.
2. While transferring on a swing rope from a platform to a tending vessel, a piledriver man fell into the water. The man, a non-swimmer, was wearing no PFD when he lost his grip on the rope. Other workers recovered him from the water but his breathing was irregular and he did not regain consciousness. He was dead on arrival at a hospital.
3. Drill collars were being offloaded from a drilling barge onto a pipe barge when the stretch bar failed and the collars fell to the deck. The resulting noise frightened the crew handling the collars, and they jumped overboard. None were wearing work vests. One of the three, a roustabout, drowned in eight feet of water.

Lesson Learned

The lessons to be learned are self-evident, human carelessness and failure to take simple precautions are frequently significant contributing factors to injuries and deaths.

Prevention Through People



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