



Fall protection equipment entanglement

Description:

A worker's fall protection equipment became entangled in hanging elevators. The worker bent over to pick up a short joint of tubing, causing the D-ring on the shock absorbing lanyard to become snagged on the elevator horns. The elevators were raised, and the entrapped worker was lifted off the work platform.

Lessons Learned:

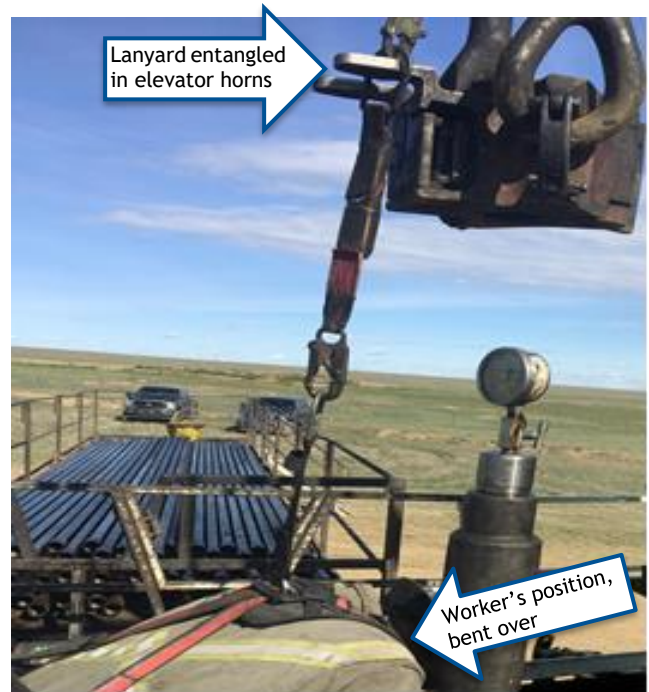
The task of picking up the shorter piece of tubing created a hazard for the worker. The bent over position caused the vertical line of the fall protection equipment to whip forward as the elevator blocks travelled upward.

In the Line of Fire:

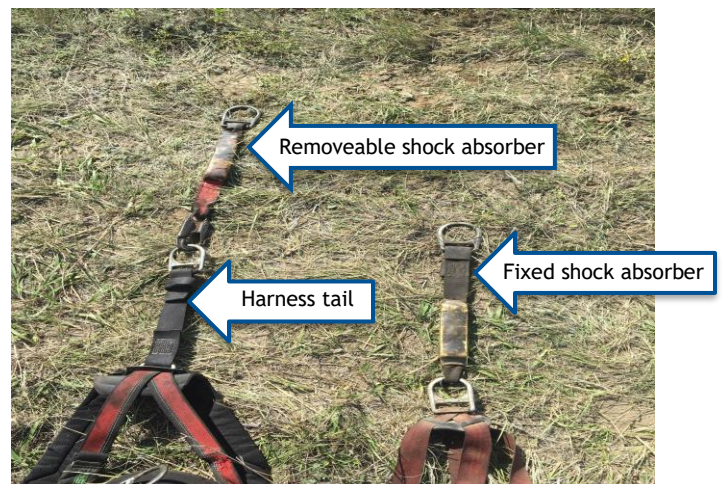


Position yourself to avoid moving objects.

Also, refer to the [Line of Fire Life Saving Rule](#).



Re-enactment of equipment entanglement



Fall protection harness with a removable shock absorber lanyard and one with a fixed shock absorber

Cause:

When a worker bent over to pick up a short piece of tubing, the vertical attachment line of the fall protection equipment whipped forward. The worker was not able to back away from the moving elevators quick enough, and the D-ring on the shock absorbing lanyard became entangled in the elevator horns. The elevator pulled the worker upwards off the tubing board. The elevator operator did not have line of sight with the worker.

Contributing Factors:

The shock absorbing lanyard on the harness had a 12” extension, creating an additional hazard.

The joint of tubing was approximately 1 m shorter than the rest of the tubing. This forced the worker to bend down in order to latch into the elevators, the worker’s fall protection equipment came in-line with elevators and the horn of the elevator snagged the lanyard’s D-ring.

Corrective Actions:

The company will replace their fall protection harnesses that have the built-in harness tail with harnesses with built in-shock absorbers.

Resources:

[Energy Safety Canada’s Fall Protection Course](#)
[Alberta OHS Fall Protection Plan](#)
[WorkSafeBC Introduction to Fall Protection](#)

Help industry by sharing learnings from an incident. [Submit your Safety Alert.](#)

SHARE AND COLLABORATE

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) works collaboratively with industry to share information aimed at helping companies of all sizes improve safe work performance.

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