

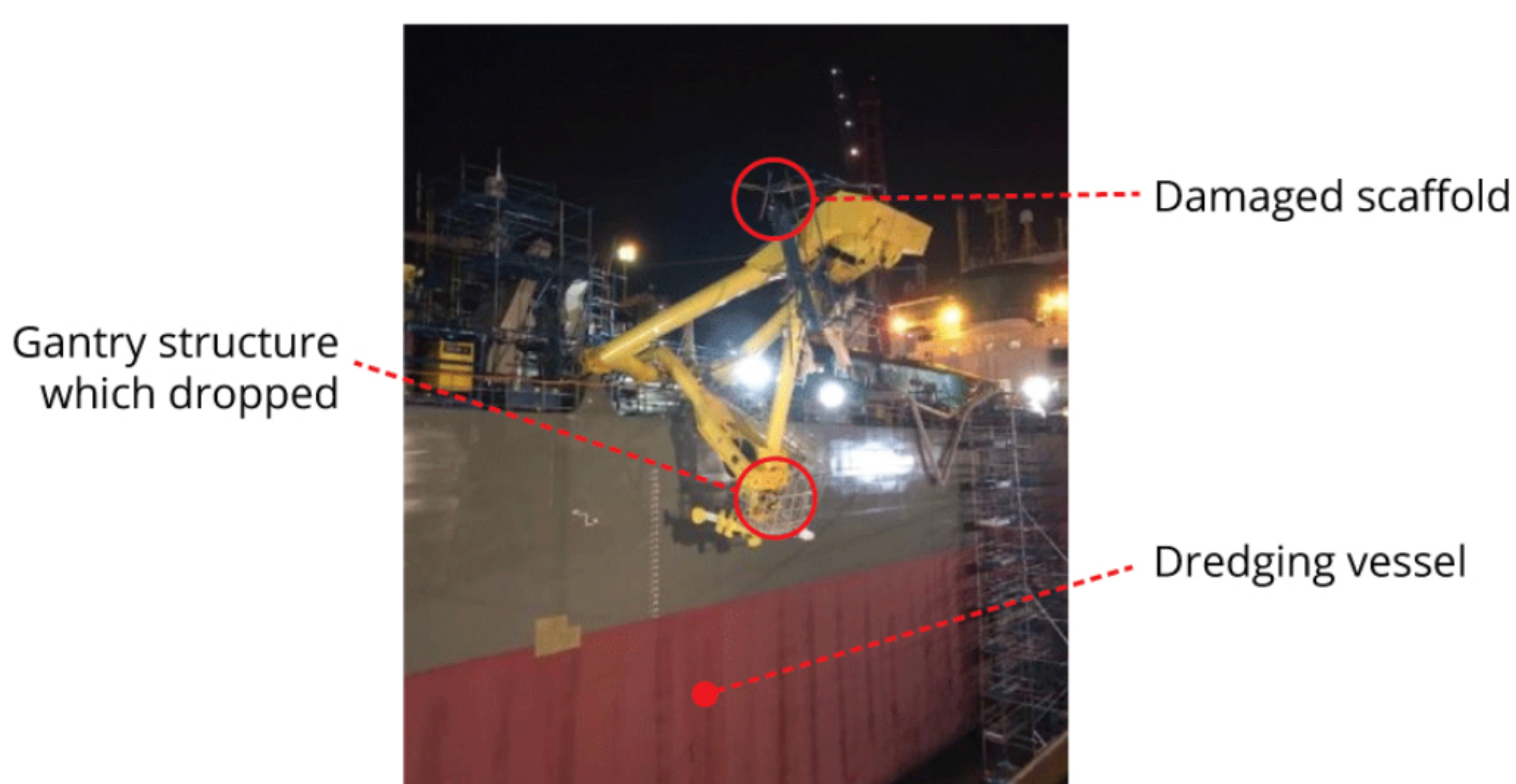
04
April
2022

WSH ALERT

FATAL ACCIDENT

Three workers fell from scaffold

On 28 March 2022, three workers were on a scaffold erected around a gantry structure of a dredging vessel at a shipyard. The gantry structure suddenly dropped causing part of the scaffold to be flung to the dock bottom. Two of the workers fell about 20 metres to their death, while the third worker survived with minor injuries as he managed to cling onto a part of the structure.



Scene of the accident.

Recommendations

Falling from height can lead to death or serious injury. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- **Structural integrity:** Assess the integrity of a structure before erecting scaffolding around the structure. If the scaffolding is attached to the structure, the structure must be able to withstand the additional loading due to the weight of the scaffold, workers, tools and equipment.
- **Movable parts locked in place:** Lockout all movable structure parts securely to ensure there is no movement while work is in progress. Check the locking mechanism(s) regularly to confirm they are in good working condition.
- **Structural support:** Put in place additional supports to prevent movement of the structure.
- **Fall Prevention Plan (FPP):** Develop and implement a FPP and Permit-To-Work system, for all hazardous work at height. Where possible, provide independent and secure anchor points or lifelines and train workers to anchor themselves at all times when working at height.
- **Safe Work Procedure (SWP):** Establish and implement a SWP for carrying out work on the gantry structure and provide supervision to ensure workers follow the SWP. The SWP should include checks on structure integrity and locking mechanism(s).

For more information, please refer to WSH Council's [Code of Practice for Working Safely at Heights](#), [WSH Guidelines on Anchorage, Lifelines and Temporary Edge Protection Systems](#), and [WSH Guidelines on Personal Protective Equipment for Work at Heights](#).

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 31 March 2022. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

Workplace injuries tend to rise around this time of the year. Remain vigilant against risks and prevent accidents.

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