

Learning from a Life Saving event

The following is a short description of a Life Saving Rule event, investigation, follow up, and learning opportunities.

It is intended to help share information and learn from each event to prevent future occurrences. It is about Saving Lives.

Everyone should ensure that we know the rules, follow the rules, and always intervene if there is the potential for unsafe behaviors or conditions. This applies to everyone: peers, supervisors, and visitors.

If in doubt, always consult your supervisor.

Event Date and Summary:

4/6/2010 ---- Contract worker failed to protect himself against a fall when working at height.

What happened:

A contract worker was performing the annual inspection on one of the location lifeboats. Part of the procedure required removing the side cover of the bow hook to inspect the linkage connection. To make it easier to remove the bolts, the worker chose to climb out of the lifeboat and sit on the lip of the hatch and reach down to remove the bolts. He was observed on top of the lifeboat without fall protection by another worker who stopped the job and had the employee get inside the boat.

Which Life Saving Rule(s) involved:

Failure to protect yourself against a fall when working at height.

Investigation results:

The investigation found that the worker chose to climb out on top of the lifeboat on his own to make the job easier. He was aware of the Life Saving Rules and he knew that neither his permit nor his JSA included working outside the lifeboat. His fellow worker / supervisor was working at the other end of the lifeboat and was unaware that the worker had climbed out of the boat.

Action taken:

The job was stopped immediately, the worker got back in the boat, and the permit was cancelled. After the onsite investigation, the worker was sent home and the incident was reviewed with contract company management. The worker will not be allowed to work on a Shell location.

Key Learning Points:

1. The contract company had not received the Life Saving Rule Material. This material was sent to them for presentation to their employees.
2. The permit / JSA did not specifically state that the worker must stay inside the lifeboat. Nor did the job sponsor specifically cover this during the worksite review. This note has been added in ISSOW for future lifeboat inspections.
3. The Stop Work Intervention worked well, the investigation was carried out quickly, and consequence management was communicated to the worker, his employer, and the local organization promptly; with positive impact seen on the location.

It is about saving lives, and it is working.

Safety is a value, Goal Zero is a mindset