

## Falling Equipment Hazard – Near-miss



### Prevent objects from falling and avoid working below others!

#### What Happened?

A knee rail was being installed by an employee when it broke (where a cut had been made to bend it), enabling a 1.2-meter length of 50-millimeter pipe to plummet 12.5 meters to the ground. The knee rail hit a worker who was floating concrete at ground level as it descended. The knee rail made contact with the worker's lower back, but since there were no injuries, it was a lucky close call.

- The work of the boilermaker was halted, and all HSE authorities visited the location right away to evaluate it.
- When asked to go to the medical station, the employee refused, claiming that there was nothing wrong with him.

#### What caused it?

- The boilermaker had placed a fire blanket outside the building to keep sparks from falling, but the piece had dropped there. Yet, this did not stop the machinery from collapsing.

#### **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: List of corrective and preventative actions taken as a result**

- The HSE Department will confirm that any meetings that cross-pollinate are mentioned in the daily safety talks.
- The cross-pollination meeting flow mechanism will be communicated.
- Implementation of handover procedures from one department to another to improve communications
- Updated installation procedures and risk assessments for foot plates, hand rails, and knee rails. These included measures to stop workers from being placed atop one another.
- The updating and application of a plot plan board with activity times and dates by a variety of professions.
- Color coding to be adopted by departments.
- Disciplinary actions for workers who violate policies, as determined by this investigation.
- A handover mechanism to address the effects of cross-pollination.
- Toolbox presentations, which were conducted as refresher training and whenever staff requested tools or equipment.

**ALWAYS REPORT AND ACT ON NEAR-MISS EVNETS!**

