

Safety and health alert

23/95 Fall from access way

Incident

The owner of a Maddington factory was seriously injured earlier this year, when he fell 4.67 metres from a partially completed access way whilst attempting to operate a valve on a nearby pipeline.

The access way, fixed to the outside of a storage tank was under construction and intended to provide better access to valves on a nearby pipeline. A 0.3 metre section of grid mesh was missing from the access way, and had no guard rails at the time of the accident. The owner stepped into the missing section, lost his balance and fell to the ground below.

Factors

The access way was installed with a section of grid mesh missing, and with no guard rail system.

Recommendations

Construct elevated access ways (including grid mesh and hand rails) on the ground before being lifted and fixed in position, wherever possible.

Assess hazards and adopt appropriate strategy when working at height. The Department has free information packages available by phoning 327 8846.

Do not use elevated access ways unless they are complete or adequate alternative precautions have been taken.

Restrict access to partially constructed elevated access ways to authorised riggers using safe work practices.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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