

Dropped Object POTENTIALLY SERIOUS INCIDENT

Description:

During a pre-move inspection of a stacked snubbing rig, an unsecured slip die weighing 2.05 kg (4.82 lbs.), fell approximately 21 m (70 ft) landing onto the ground 2 m (6 ft) from workers. The slip die had been left behind and was lying on an access hatch. The slip die fell when the hatch was opened and could have severely or fatally injured workers on the ground.

Lessons Learned:

- According to the [DROPSonline.org](https://www.dropsonline.org/) calculator, the potential consequence of this dropped object impacting a worker would have resulted in a fatality.
- The exclusion zone was not well-established, and workers were too close to the rig.

Did You Know?

In Alberta, dropped objects comprise 29% of all potential serious injuries reported since June 1, 2018.

Life Saving Rule:



LINE OF FIRE

Excerpts from this rule:

- Position yourself and others to avoid dropped objects.
- Establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones.
- Take action to secure loose objects.

Learn more about this [Life Saving Rule](#)



Typical stacked snubbing rig



Hatch access area where slip die fell through



Slip die shown sitting on scale (4.82 lbs.)

Rig image source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snubbing>

Cause:

When a worker inspected the rig prior to moving, the action of opening the access hatch caused the slip die (that was on the hatch floor) to slip through the hinged opening and onto the ground. A worker on the ground was nearly hit by the falling slip die, it landed approximately 2 m away from the worker.

Contributing Factors:

- The slip dies were previously removed to ready the rig for a move, however one remained on the floor of an access area.
- Misunderstanding of the exclusion zone requirements and distractions due to multiple changes in work scope.
- Inadequate dropped object prevention training.

Corrective Actions:

- Company held safety stand down to discuss managing scope changes and conflicting priorities.
- Implement formal DROPS training for workers and supervisors.

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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