

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0004
Subject:	Rigger falls 7 metres
Date:(mth/yr)	March 2005

Incident: (Brief facts only, do not include company name or location, insert picture if available)

Rigger was fitting bolts to a shield plate. Access to and from the working position was carried out with his harness unsecured. On return from the work position the rigger fell 7 m. He suffered bruising to lungs, broken ribs, fractured vertebrae.

Key Lessons: (maximum of 3)

- Failure to attach harness at all times when exposed to fall hazard. A workplace culture which has some reluctance to provide or accept personal feedback and perceives that certain levels of risk may be acceptable.
- Incomplete planning and preparation for a shutdown.
- Failure to accurately assess the hazard and manage the risk.

Recommendations: (maximum of 3)

- Enforce the standard that harnesses are always secured when there is exposure to a fall hazard.
- Ensure that rigging plans, including scaffold design if necessary, provide safe working platforms.
- Review the effectiveness of the current JSA / ATW procedure and redeploy the agreed standard.

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:
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