

ACTIONABLE LESSONS LEARNED: Employee Falls From Crossover



Fall from Heights

Incident Overview

Bagdad, July 29, 2024

A mill employee was standing on top of a rougher flotation crossover approximately four feet from the floor. The employee fell backwards, hit their ribs on a pipe and fell to the floor.



Causal Factors

- A hose was pulled between float cells to clean the walkways, causing it to get stuck. The employee then climbed on the crossover to free the hose. Instead, the hose should have been walked around the cells.
- Employee climbed onto a connection area that was 4 feet 3 inches high. Anything above 4 feet is a fall hazard risk.

Site Specific Actions



- **Engineering** – Install safety guards to prevent reoccurrence including:

- Guarding/railing to prevent access to areas between float cells.
- A high-pressure pump for cleanup.
- A crossover at the east end of the roughers.
- Temporary scaffolding for the crossover.



- **Administrative** – Assign a direct supervisor for Mill Services to help reinforce policies and standards.



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Employees

- Do not climb onto surfaces or equipment that are not intended for standing. Especially if it exposes you to a fall hazard (anything above 4 feet).
- Work safely. Taking shortcuts creates hazards and increased risk.
- If working conditions do not meet the requirements of the task, raise concerns and solutions with your supervisor.



Freeport Leadership

- As you assign tasks, complete field assessments alongside your employees. Discuss the safe means and methods required to complete the task.
- During field assessments and walk-throughs, look for process improvements that can help prevent unsafe employee behaviors. Implement necessary improvements that can help create a safer workplace.



All of Us

- Use fall protection/prevention when working on unguarded walking or working surfaces above 4 feet.
- Use tools and equipment as they are intended.
- Take responsibility for your own safety. Do not place yourself in a hazardous situation, especially when it can be prevented.



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Actionable Event: Employee Falls From Crossover

Preliminary Incident Details	
Operation	Bagdad
Date / Time	July 29, 2024 / 9:15 a.m.
Event Type	Injury – Medical Treatment
Summary	A mill employee was standing on top of a rougher flotation crossover approximately four feet from the floor. The employee fell backwards, hit their ribs on a pipe and fell to the floor.
Risk Category	Actionable – Significant (3) Likely (3)
Findings / Missing Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No fall protection was being used above four feet.Employee should not have been on top of crossover.No field verification by supervision that employees were working safely.
Applicable Policies / Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">FCX-HS02 Working at Heights Policy
Employee Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Employee was transported off-site for medical treatment.
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Danielle Murphey, Senior Supervisor-Industrial HygieneRyan Fidler, Manager-Mill

Photos / Links

Diagram of employee location prior to fall and approximate heights.