

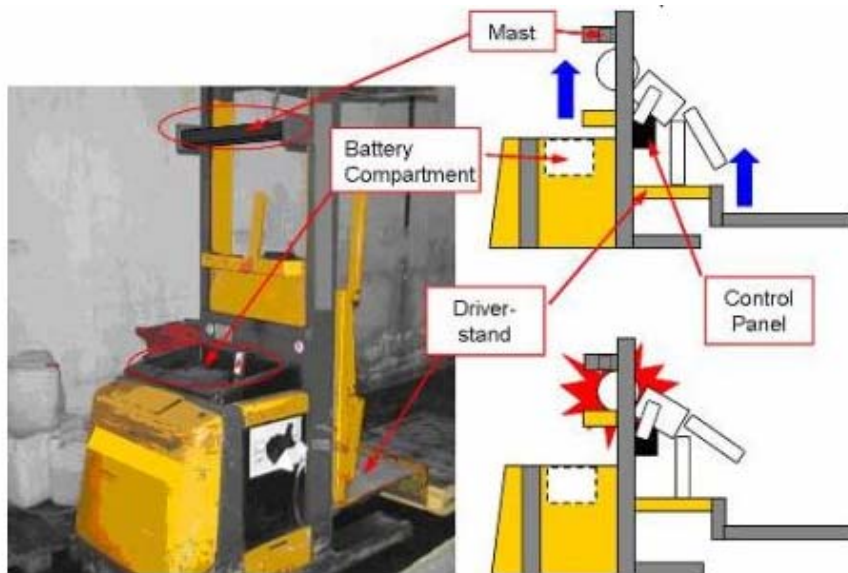
Simple Work – Three Fatalities

(Source: Workplace Safety & Health Alert)

Within a week in December, 2008, three workers were killed in workplace related incidents (non-ExxonMobil incidents). Preliminary investigations revealed that all the workers were performing simple tasks that could have been done safely.

Case 1 – Worker died while topping up battery water

On the day of the incident, a 19-year-old worker was carrying out the simple task of topping off the battery water for a stacker truck in a warehouse. He was standing on the driver stand platform when it suddenly lifted upwards. The worker's neck was caught between the driver control panel and a horizontal bar which was attached to the stacker's hoist frame. He was pronounced dead on the spot.



Case 2 – Worker fell 41m (134.5 ft.) to his death while dismantling a scaffold

A 44-year-old construction worker was dismantling a metal scaffold with two other co-workers. During the process, he stood on a metal decking outside a window opening at the staircase landing area between the 19th and 18th story without any fall protection. He was manually lowering the dismantled scaffold decking using a rope.

During the lowering process, the decking was obstructed and the worker tried to free it by swinging the rope. While doing so, he lost his balance and fell 41m (134.5 ft) to his death.

Case 3 – Worker fell into elevator shaft while removing a torn plastic sheet

A 26-year-old worker was replacing a plastic sheet covering a cable trunk opening onboard an oil rig. He was with two other co-workers. The cable trunk opening was located next to an elevator shaft which had barricades along the entire area as a form of fall protection.

While in the process of removing the plastic sheet, the worker fell into the elevator shaft opening, landing 38.5m (126 ft) below on the pontoon deck. The worker was sent to the hospital and pronounced dead on the same day. Preliminary investigations suggest that he had either leaned too much over the barricades or had climbed over the barricades into the work area.

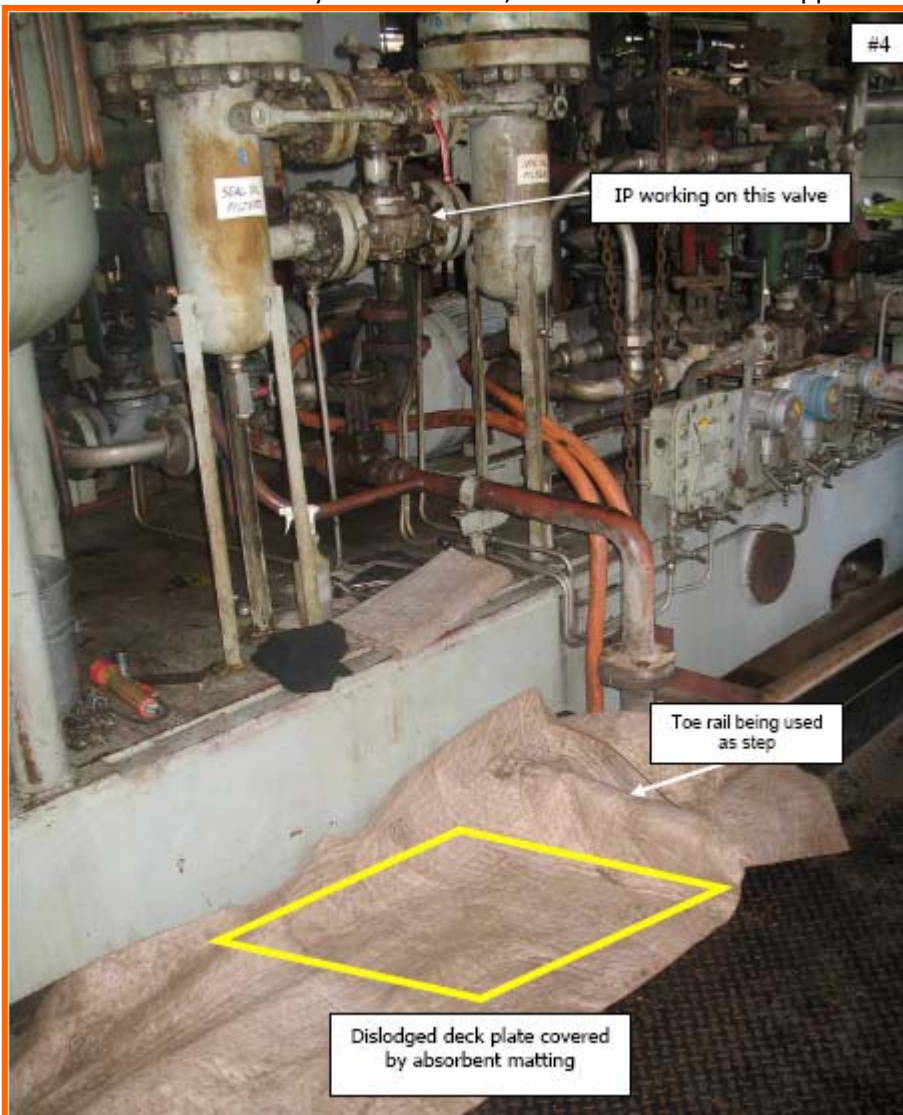
Incident Sharing

Esso Australia Back Strain Lost Time Injury – Concealed Hazard

Date: October 2, 2008

Location: Esso Australia Longford Plant

Incident: A maintenance technician was working on a gas compressor seal oil filter selector valve to repair oil leaks. Absorbent matting had been placed on the deck as mitigation for oil spills and potential slippery surfaces. The activity continued over the next two days. The technician had been using the toe rail as a step; it is assumed that this facilitated movement of the decking plate. On the day of the incident, when the technician stepped down from the skid, a piece of the decking plate under the absorbent matting dislodged and fell 9.5 ft. to the ground. The technician lost his balance, his leg entered the hole and he fell backwards landing on his buttocks on the deck (same level). The fall resulted in a graze to his right shin and a bruised thigh. The technician later experienced severe back pain and missed time from work.



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Learnings/Recommendations:

- In addressing one potential hazard (spill, slippery surface), another hazard was concealed (deck plate movement).
- Design of the deck plate securing mechanism was less than adequate. One locator lug was not positioned to contact the foundation and the North West corner of the plate only had limited contact area with the foundation. This enabled the plate to rotate/slide so as to release a corner, allowing the plate to tip once stepped on.
- The "S" in the SCAN process stands for "Survey Your Surroundings For Potential Hazards". Don't neglect to look "under" items – like absorbent matting – when those items have been added to the job site, especially if you are relying on the surface underneath to support your weight.