

High Potential Incident Alert - 191

November 2015

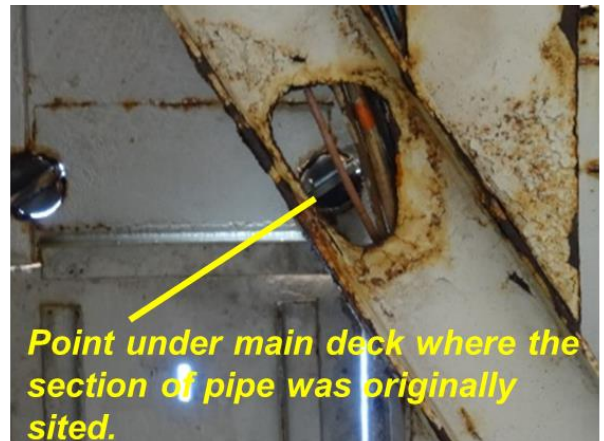
Redundant pipework falls to deck

The platform operator discovered a one-metre section of corroded redundant 4-inch pipework weighing about 15kg lying on the deck.

During a storm, a section of pipe broke free from its welded mounting point and fell about 8 metres to the cellar deck.

No personnel were nearby at the time.

While this was unlikely to cause a fatality, if any personnel had been struck by the falling pipework they could have been seriously injured.



CRITICAL FACTORS

- Corrosion of the redundant pipe.
- Redundant pipe was not removed when it was no longer needed.
- Poor design – the pipework was not painted on the inside and caps on the main deck were not sealed.
- The pipe's location posed a hazard – it was directly over a walkway.

KEY LESSONS

- All pipework – including redundant pipework – should be monitored for corrosion.
- Once it is no longer required, structural pipework should be removed as soon possible.
- Ensure structural changes meet the required standards.
- Consider the safety of personnel when selecting where to place any structural changes.

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