

COS SAFETY SHARE

WHAT WILL WE DO TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING HERE?

STORED 2,500 Lb ELEVATOR LINKS DESCEND 69" TO DECK

What happened?

A worker was attaching a shipping label to a wash sub located on a horizontal storage rack in the pipe rack area. While the worker was attaching the label, the 18' elevator links stored above the wash sub shifted, and one end of the links descended to the deck. The worker was within 24 inches of the elevator links but was able to retreat without any injuries. The elevator links weigh 2,500 lbs each and fell 69 inches. Drops calculator potential outcome is fatality.

What went wrong?

The 18' elevator links were stored in the rack with eyes resting vertical on the horizontal members. The rack was too wide for the 18' length of the elevator links. The rack used in this event is intended for storage of 22' length elevator links. Tripping Pipe operations on the rig floor causes vibrations to the area.

Why did it happen?

There was no procedure, markings or otherwise formally set requirements detailing proper storage arrangements. A lack of formal guidance requiring identification and use of approved storage arrangements for the elevator links resulted in crews placing equipment in areas of opportunity and normalization of risk. The storage rack is in a well-travelled area but personnel did not recognize unsafe condition.

What areas were identified for improvement?

Develop specific storage arrangement for elevator links that are appropriate for length and weight that prevent bail from becoming unstable and falling. Survey locations for other similar equipment that may pose a drops risk if improperly stored and establish approved designated storage arrangements. Storage racks, shelving, etc. with the potential to be loaded beyond capacity should be labeled with the safe working limit to prevent overloading.

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