SAFETY ALERT

E & P (Offshore)
Ref no : OISD/SA/2020-21/E&P/02
Title : Accident due to Slippage of Rope
Location : Offshore
Activity Type : Cutting and Removal of Submersible Pump Outer Casing
Result Outcome : Hand Injury

INCIDENT
A major accident took place at an offshore Rig while Cutting and Removing Outer casing of submersible pump used for cooling of equipment. As the cut piece parted, the entire load suddenly transferred to the rope, resulting in entanglement of fingers of one person and hand of another between rope and handrail.

OBSERVATIONS
At around 14:50 hrs, both the Injured Persons were holding the back-up rope of deep well outer casing cut piece, which was being cut below the bottom hull. The position of Scaffolder from Handrail was about 3 feet and distance between Scaffolder and Roustabout was about 3 feet. Subsequent to cutting of well outer casing, as the cut piece parted the entire load was transferred to the rope and the rope started slipping. Both the Injured Persons failed to release the rope and tried to hold which eventually resulted in entanglement of fingers of scaffold and hand of roustabout between rope and handrails, thereby causing injuries. Barge Engineer noticed this and immediately sourced a knife from another roustabout and cut the rope to free the injured persons. IPs were brought to the sick bay and given first aid. Doctor advised Scaffolder to go to base for further examination and Roustabout, who got minor injury (swelling) was given ice-pack on his right hand. Immediately medivac helicopter request was raised for transfer of scaffold, who got multiple injuries in his fingers.

ROOT CAUSE
- A contractual employee used for the job was not meant for the purpose.
- Proper risk evaluation was not done for the job.
- No proper safety briefing to Injured Persons.
- Proper Tool Box Talk was not carried out considering the critical nature of the job.
- No proper SOP for the job was followed.
This safety alert is based on the Investigation report submitted by industry and published for information purpose only. This information should be evaluated to determine if it is applicable in your operations, to avoid reoccurrence of such incidents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Job Safety Analysis should be carried out before releasing the work permit.
- Unauthorised personnel should not be deployed to work for non-routine jobs.
- SOP for such non-routine jobs should be included.
- Diligent planning is to be done prior to execution of work and should be explained to all team Members.
- Special procedure to be mentioned for jobs at different levels and without direct visibility.
- Attention by all team members together is required to handle this type of non-routine job.
- Casual approach on critical jobs should be avoided.
- It is recommended to use proper hoist and pulley, instead of manual methods.
- All critical operations need to be closely supervised by senior officers till their completion.