

Structural Railing Failure

SAFETY ALERT

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Enform

Enform is the health and safety association for Canada's upstream oil and gas industry. We provide leading health and safety training, programs and services, touching the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers each year. We are dedicated to the continuous improvement of safety with a vision of eliminating work-related incidents or injuries in the upstream oil and gas industry.

An Industry Product

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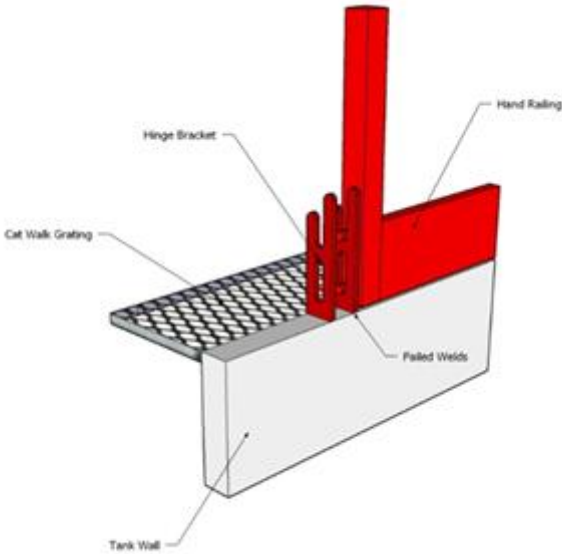
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For more information on this event, please contact: safety@enform.ca

Description of Incident:

An oilfield worker was in the process of viewing the cuttings coming over the shale shakers from the top platform of the mud tank. The worker leaned over the railing to get a better view. The railing system failed resulting in the worker falling with the railing to the ground below. The worker was not seriously injured, but there was high potential for severe injury or fatality in this incident.

	<p>Folding hand rail bracket failure</p>
	<p>Diagram depicting the location of the failed welds on hand railing</p>

By industry, for industry

What Caused It:

Moisture penetrated the welded area of the manufactured fold-down-style railing brackets that were welded to the mud tank. Over time, this caused metal fatigue which resulted in failure to provide fall protection.

Corrective/Preventive Actions:

Investigation provided the following recommendations:

- Always be aware and alert; what appears to be safe may not be. Always test the integrity of a railing before bearing weight or leaning on it.
- Be aware that this type of fall protection is widely used and accepted where height restrictions play a role with mobile equipment; however, there is no legislative requirement for the engineering of these brackets. Industry/operators should develop an inspection process for such equipment.

