

Safety Alert



make it **safe**
make it **home**

For Anglian Water employees and contractors No. SA000543 1st February 2016

Working at Height

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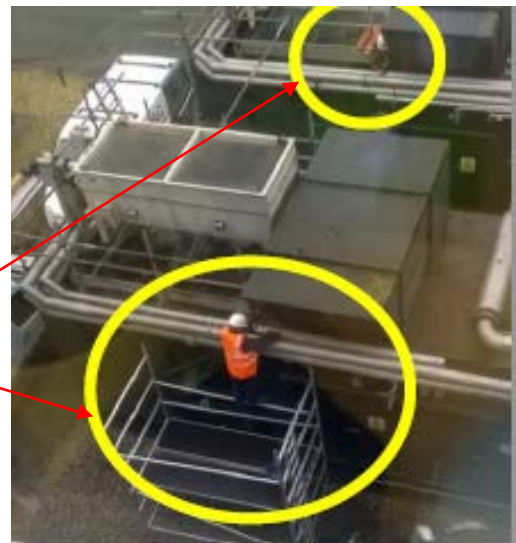


What Happened

A team of trained contractors were sent to a site to decommission and remove two Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units.

It was decided that two mobile tower scaffold units would be the safest means of accessing the high level pipework which needed to be unbolted prior to a contract lift.

When work began two operatives were seen working unsafely and stopped. One operative was seen leaning through fixed scaffolding whilst unbolting a flange. Another was standing on the edge protection of the mobile tower trying to access high level pipework.



- Existing fixed scaffolding was not intended to be used and did not have any formal inspections.
- The operative gained access via a ladder that was too short and required the operative to pull himself up and through the edge protection.
- The mobile tower scaffolding was not fully erected to the required height. Additional sections were available but not used.
- Safe systems of work were developed; unfortunately these individuals chose not to use the approved method to save time.

Learning Points

- All work at height must be planned and have a suitable safe system of work in place.
- Ladders must always extend a minimum of 1 metre above the landing stage and be tied off to a fixed point.
- Prior to accessing existing scaffolding, checks must be made to ensure it is safe and that it has been inspected by a competent person. There should be an in date scaffold inspection tag detailing this.
- Mobile Tower Scaffold should always be erected by a PASMA trained operative to the correct standard for the height required.

Nothing is so important that we cannot take the time to do it safely

Safety Alerts should not be thought of as an accident investigation report. However, they are issued to raise awareness of accidents that occur and to highlight the safe work practices required to avoid them being repeated.