

Issue 10 Autumn 2009

# FULL STOP.

PROMOTING INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICE IN PREVENTING DROPPED OBJECTS



Description: **File**  
Found: **Derrick Structure**  
Weight: **0.5kg**  
At Height: **15.2m**  
Consequence: **POTENTIALLY FATAL**

Description: **Scaffolding Clamp**  
Found: **Deck of Marine Vessel**  
Weight: **1.5kg**  
Height Fallen: **Unknown, probably >5m**  
Consequence: **POTENTIALLY FATAL**

Description: **Nail Bar**  
Found: **Hanging on Skidframe**  
Weight: **2.25kg**  
Consequence: **POTENTIALLY FATAL if**  
**dropped during lift**



## DROPS

DROPPED OBJECTS  
PREVENTION SCHEME

### INSIDE:

Latest DROPS Community News  
Hazard Hunt Campaign Poster  
Current Projects and Products

**WELCOME** to the 10th edition of **Full Stop**, the industry-wide newsletter promoting best practice in the fight against potential dropped objects. We've changed the format a little and introduced a printed version too, helping to spread the word even further! **Once you've read it, please pass it on to your colleagues.**

In this edition, you will find updates on various DROPS activities and a snap shot of some of the many issues that have been covered at our regular DROPS Forums.

For me, it has been a very productive and positive period as we have pushed forward with the establishment of a global DROPS community, meeting many new members and delegates from every corner of the world - all with the same passion and enthusiasm for the prevention of dropped objects.

However, being so close to the issue can be quite distressing. All too often I hear of yet another fatality or serious injury somewhere in the world that has been attributed to a dropped object incident. Dropped objects are still harming, and still killing our colleagues and friends throughout the oil and gas industry.

But reassuringly, we have witnessed a continued surge of interest in DROPS, many new member organisations with a determination to contribute meaningfully to our dropped object prevention campaign.

This is an opportunity for me, on behalf of DROPS and all our members to thank everyone who continues to support our activities and wish you all a safe and successful venture – whatever you may be doing!

*Debbie Mecklenburgh*  
GLOBAL DROPS SECRETARY

**DROPS membership continues to grow** - we now boast over sixty companies among our ranks, comprising operators, drilling contractors, service companies and specialist contractors. Various industry and regulatory bodies are also associate members / regular attendees at the regular DROPS Forums.

The latest companies to join the DROPS Team include:

- **Songa Offshore**
- **Rowan Drilling (UK)**
- **Wood Group Engineering (North Sea)**
- **BJ Services Company (UK)**
- **AKER Well Service AS**
- **CLS Offshore**
- **AAK Group**
- **Hi-Line Tools**

We are always pleased to welcome new members, particularly companies and organisations with a determination to contribute meaningfully to our dropped object prevention campaign. Members meet regularly to discuss and review lessons learned and new technologies, with all contributing to the development of tools and guidance to support the Campaign.

For information on DROPS membership

e [campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com)

t +44 (0)1224 861811

**CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE  
MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE**



## DROPS Training

Since the last edition of **Full Stop**, over 100 new DROPS Trainers have completed the Train-the-Trainer course at locations around the world. These have included asset specific dropped object prevention programmes, uniquely tailored to represent the local working environment, installation and equipment.

Delegates have included rig crews, HSE professionals, inspection engineers, access teams and a good cross-section of operational personnel from a wide range of companies representing the full spectrum of the oil and gas industry supply chain.

**Many of these new Trainers have gone on to tailor their own training and familiarisation programmes, covering every oil and gas region worldwide.**

DROPS has committed to further developing the material to introduce fresh statistics and examples, including anecdotes and stories of real incidents that bring the subject to life in the class room and hammer home the need to be vigilant and aware of the potential for dropped objects to occur anywhere.

Find out more about DROPS Train-the-Trainer at [www.dropsworkpack.com](http://www.dropsworkpack.com) or email us at [campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com)



## DORIS

## ONLINE DROPPED OBJECT REPORTING

One of the key DROPS deliverables for 2009 was an online tool for reporting, gathering and presenting dropped object statistical data such that DROPS members may selectively search and analyse recorded incidents to assist in further raising awareness of the issue throughout industry.

**DORIS**, the Dropped Object Register of Incidents and Statistics is set to be rolled out in December 2009 after some rigorous

testing by the Focus Group who have built the web based system.

**The key objective is to provide an anonymous online resource that can deliver statistical dropped object data across a common field.**

The outputs will allow DROPS as a group to benchmark performance and where appropriate focus specific campaigns to help raise awareness of the activities and influences that cause dropped objects.



## DROPS Workpack

One of the main DROPS products and part of the marketing system is the Campaign Pack; a branded case containing latest products and tools derived from industry best practice.

The key element of this pack is the DROPS Workpack; a comprehensive set of industry recognised guidelines, templates and communication tools to assist in eliminating the incidence of dropped objects from within drilling derrick structures.

**It guides the user towards the elimination of dropped object incidents, from devising an awareness campaign through to the development and implementation of a management system.**

There have also been a number of exemplary applications of the Management System where the basic principles have been employed and enhanced through smart use of electronic media, particularly in asset inspection reports.

The Workpack is set to be refreshed and updated for 2010, incorporating all of the best practice gathered through DROPS to date and broaden its influence beyond Drilling to encompass Operations, Logistics and many other activities where dropped objects occur – **both on and offshore.**

Since it was first published in 2001, we have been exposed to new techniques, advancements and tools designed to eliminate dropped object incidents. These include:

- ☐ Tools at Height – Best Practice
- ☐ DROPS Calculator
- ☐ Reliable Securing
- ☐ Picture Book Concept
- ☐ Training & Familiarisation techniques
- ☐ Supply Chain Influences

An updated Workpack is the ideal tool to promote these examples of best practice and work is underway to develop a revised document for industry review.

Visit [www.dropsworkpack.com](http://www.dropsworkpack.com) to find out more about the range of DROPS products.



# DROPS GLOBAL

To maintain the highest focus on dropped object prevention within the Oil & Gas Industry, and to bring regional effort and engagement to the campaign, DROPS has launched an Asia-Pacific and a North American Chapter. This is the opportunity for industry players in these regions to fully engage in the dropped object prevention initiative and help shape and drive the DROPS campaign at a regional and global level.

The significant level of interest in both areas will lead to wider awareness and distribution of DROPS activities around the world, with opportunities for sharing best practice / lessons learned and the identification and implementation of improvements. On a global level, DROPS will manage the exchange of information, knowledge, tools and techniques across all regions.

To find out more about DROPS Global Chapters, contact us at [campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com).

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**October 8 2009** : DROPS Forum, Grand Beatrix Hotel, Den Helder, Netherlands

**October 13 2009** : DROPS Forum, Renaissance Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**November 16 2009** : DROPS Forum, Shell Offices (150 Nth Dairy Ashford St) Houston USA

**December 3 2009** : DROPS Forum, Marcliffe at Pitfodels, Aberdeen UK

To find out more about DROPS Events or to register your attendance, contact [campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com)



## ROGUES GALLERY

Following the lead of colleagues in Den Helder, DROPS are in the process of installing a series of display cabinets in prime locations, each filled with real examples of potential and actual dropped objects from across the industry. These are stark reminders that we are all exposed to dropped objects, regardless of where we work or what we do.

**The first cabinet, sponsored by Reel Group and with the kind support of Bristows is to be situated at the newly refurbished reception area at Dyce Heliport in Aberdeen.**



# RELIABLE SECURING

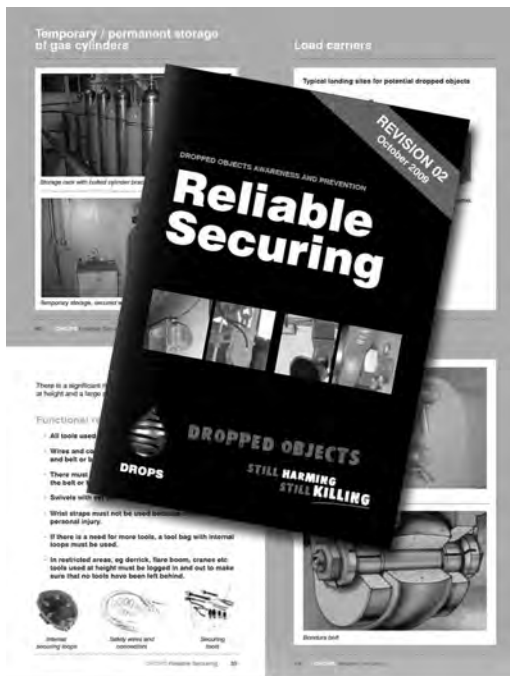
The eagerly awaited update to the DROPS version of Reliable Securing is now available. This handy guide book collates relevant requirements for securing both fixed and freestanding equipment and sets the standards we should aspire to.

Developed by StatoilHydro and SfS (Samarbeid for Sikkerhet / Together for Safety) after much consultation with equipment suppliers and users, the handbook is an excellent guide to Best Securing Practice.

**It is intended to help eliminate the risk of dropped objects and applies to equipment and tools that are being procured and that are already in use.**

Reliable Securing promotes the application of appropriate technical solutions to prevent dropped objects, which in conjunction with the right procedures and people skills will help to eliminate the problem from the worksite.

**Everyone in the value chain, from design and manufacture through to installation, commission and final dismantlement and backloading should be aware of these guidelines and where applicable comply with the functional recommendations presented in the booklet.**



***“Compliance with these recommendations will help achieve our goal of zero dropped objects.***

***We’re all responsible...  
...let’s make a difference.”***

- ☐ Best practice for selection and application of primary fixings
- ☐ Integrated secondary retention guidelines
- ☐ Work at Height tool and equipment checklists
- ☐ Securing of light fittings, cameras, cabinets and electrical equipment
- ☐ Observation Techniques

**To place your order:**

**Email [campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com) or call us on 01224 861811.**

# HAZARD HUNT



DROPS AWARENESS CAMPAIGN PULL OUT POSTER

**DROPS**

This workplace initiative, developed by DROPS member Halliburton has delivered real results throughout industry – eliminating potential dropped objects at source.

Personnel are invited to take part in a **Hazard Hunt Day**, inspecting all facilities and locations for any uncontrolled or unnecessary objects that have the potential to fall.

Objects such as tools or scrap left at height or on top of containers, unsecured items stacked aloft on shelving or pallets, items on trucks that are not secured or cannot be secured, pieces of equipment or structure that are damaged, corroded or loose, items on workbenches that may roll and fall off, locally fabricated or modified equipment and tools that have not been authorized or approved, bolts without split pins or safety wires, loose signage, litter, unsecured lids, poorly maintained containers and baskets, items in fork lift pockets or left on skid structures, any unsecured objects such

as wooden chocks or tools left on pipe racks or any other item that may be lifted, loose lamp fittings, missing screws, nuts and bolts...

Used in conjunction with current work site safety condition or hazard observation reporting initiatives and systems, these potential killers can be identified and eliminated before they become another unacceptable dropped object statistic.

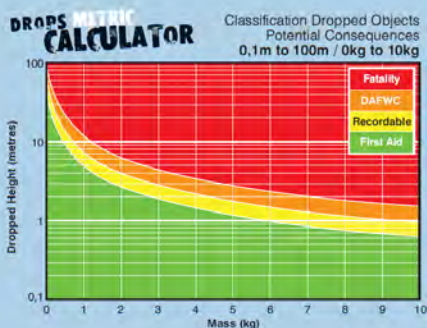
The DROPS Calculator can be applied to the items found to determine the potential consequence should the object have become a dropped object.

Initiatives such as the Hazard Hunt raise an awareness of dropped objects in the work place, how easily they can occur and what damage or injury could be sustained if they fall. Getting everyone involved helps us all achieve our ultimate goal of delivering a 'second nature' dropped objects prevention strategy across industry and beyond.

Why not try this initiative with your colleagues. Remember there doesn't have to be a set time for a Hazard Hunt. We need to be looking out for potential dropped objects.

Simply pull out the poster overleaf, plan your Hazard Hunt Day and promote the date throughout your worksite.

If you need some additional copies of the poster, or would like help to set up your own campaign, contact DROPS at [campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com) or call on +44 (0) 1224 861811. DROPS Calculator cards also available.



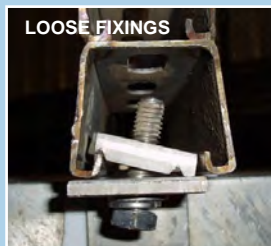


# HAZARD HUNT DAY

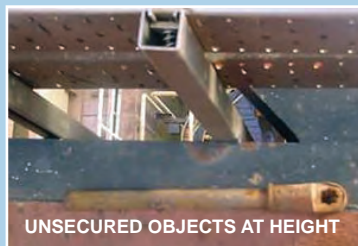
INSERT YOUR DATE HERE

The objective of this Hazard Hunt is to inspect all our Facilities and Locations for any uncontrolled object that has a potential to fall.

The Hazard Hunt applies to all locations, on and offshore. All work-sites (including Offices) should be inspected for potential dropped objects.



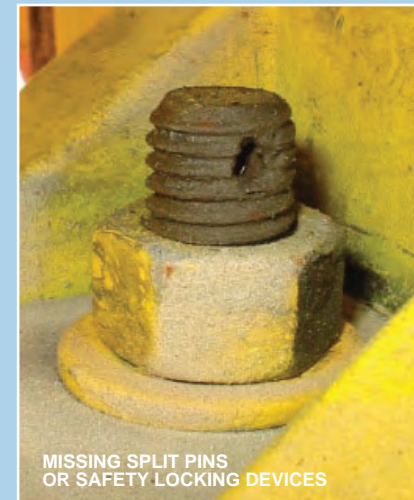
LOOSE FIXINGS



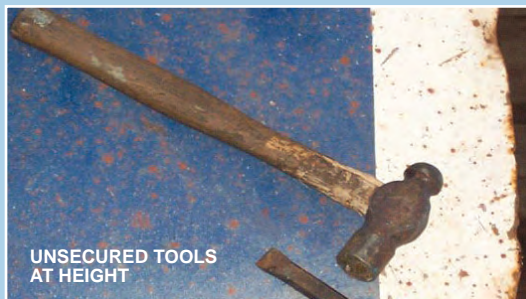
UNSECURED OBJECTS AT HEIGHT



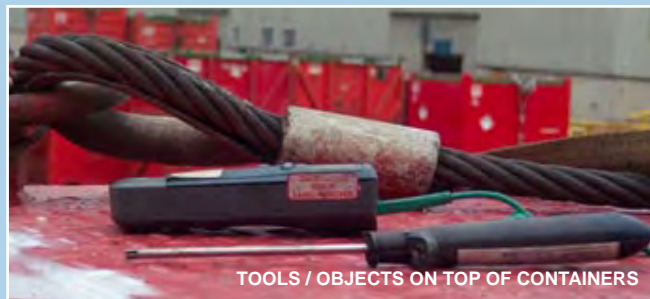
OBJECTS IN FORKLIFT POCKETS



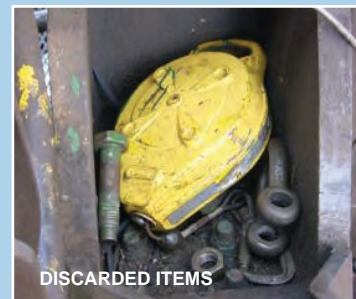
MISSING SPLIT PINS OR SAFETY LOCKING DEVICES



UNSECURED TOOLS AT HEIGHT



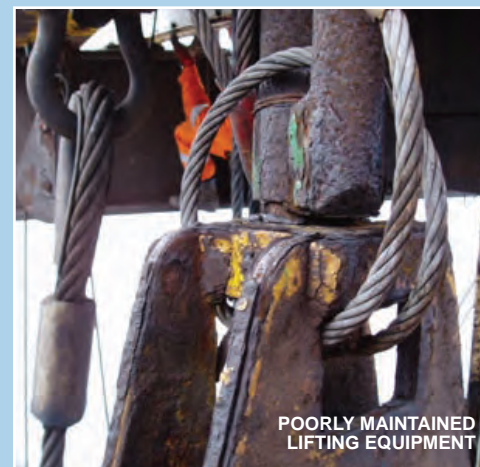
TOOLS / OBJECTS ON TOP OF CONTAINERS



DISCARDED ITEMS



LITTER



POORLY MAINTAINED LIFTING EQUIPMENT

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- Unsecured objects stored at height (ie on pallet racking shelving)
- Items left on top of containers / skid frames etc
- Items in offices stored inappropriately on cabinets or shelves
- Items loaded on trucks / vehicles with inadequate means to secure properly
- Unsecured items with the potential to detach and fall (ie shackle without pin in bolt)
- Items on work benches that may roll or fall off

If you do find any potential Dropped Objects, please take responsibility for making it safe and report what you did to your supervisor. Report all objects that you find using the appropriate system. If in doubt, speak to your supervisor.





# SNAKES AND LADDERS

DROPS has developed its own unique variation on the classic snakes and ladders game board theme, where players take turns to advance their pieces through a series of good and bad scenarios.

As with the original version of the children's game, Snakes and Ladders teaches valuable lessons - sensible deeds are rewarded whilst mischievous or foolish behavior must suffer the consequences.

**All subscribing members have now received their copy as part of the annual update distribution they currently receive.**

Also available in Norwegian and Dutch, this simple game is an ideal tool to raise awareness of dropped objects and how to apply the range of tools and techniques designed to manage and prevent them occurring.



**Snakes and Ladders, Don't Gamble with Your Life** : From only £10 per unit

E: [campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com)  
or call +44 (0) 1224 861811

## WHAT IS DROPS?

DROPS is a non-profit making global initiative focused on dropped object prevention throughout the oil and gas industry.

**Represented by over sixty of the world's leading operators, contractors, service companies and industry bodies, we all collaborate and share commitment and enthusiasm for the common goal of dropped object prevention.**

Our basic remit is to consider all avenues available for improving the industry's dropped object prevention performance.

We then distil and identify the key learnings and deliver these back into the industry in the form of awareness, best practice, recommendations, lessons, tools and techniques.

Specific focus groups within DROPS work key issues to conclusion as effective deliverable products, eg a presentation, a best practice, a poster, a procedure etc.

**Today, DROPS is the leading global resource for support and information on dropped object prevention.**

## PLAY YOUR PART

Become an active member, subscribe to our products, or visit the website to find out more.

[www.dropsworkpack.com](http://www.dropsworkpack.com)

# WE'RE ALL RESPONSIBLE...

One of the most interactive training and familiarisation aids prepared by DROPS Members is the DROPS Value Chain or Supply Chain map.

From Design and Manufacture, during Packaging, Transportation and Installation and throughout the operational lifecycle of assets and project activities, we find opportunities to identify and eliminate potential dropped objects.

A key part of the modular DROPS Training package, this model is used to discuss each of the responsibilities, standards and considerations that come into play at every stage in the life of a tool, piece of equipment or indeed a new-build asset.

**Real incidents can be used to illustrate that the application of good supply chain management principles and processes would have ensured that the hazards would have been eliminated or at the very least the risks controlled more effectively.**

At a recent session with the SNS Pool in Den Helder, Netherlands, the key speaker from Amsterdam Business School presented fascinating industry models that drew attention to the need to consider methods of improving relationships and communications between customers and suppliers throughout the supply chain.

The models used showed both good and bad supply chain examples, but one example in particular emphasised the need for all parties involved in the value chain to work together in planning and implementing new methods, tools and equipment...

## Whenever there's a snack gap...

During the height of 80s advertising campaigns, the marketeers of a well known confectionery brand devised a '**25% extra for free**' promotion on their chocolate covered caramel finger biscuit. Although approved by the board, this concept came to a grinding halt when it hit the production lines.

The factory manager, warehouseman and logistics specialist quickly pointed out that perhaps some key considerations had been missed during the decision making process.

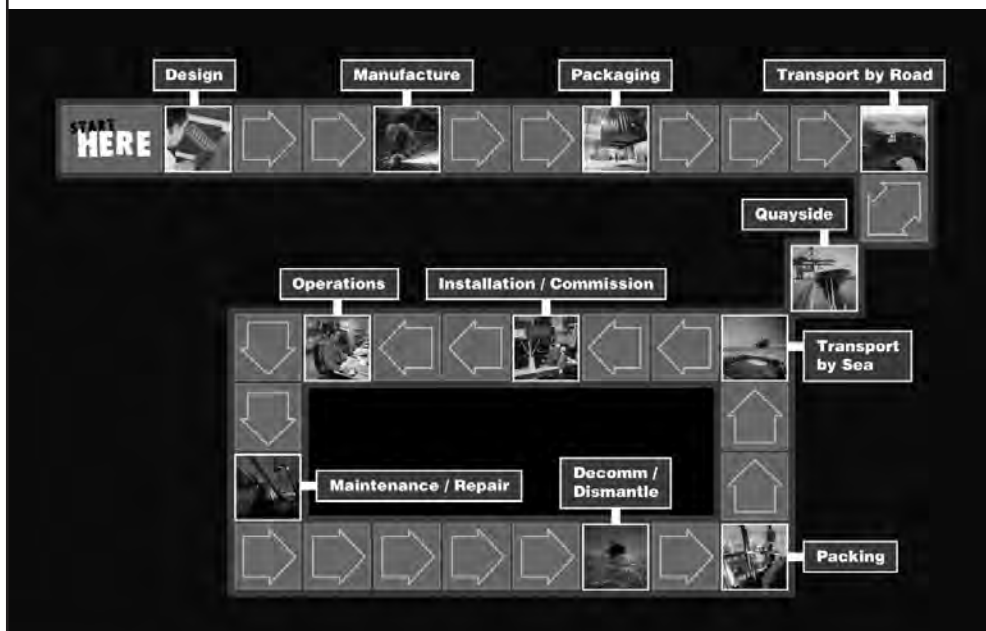
To make a biscuit that is 25% longer required some considerable adjustments on the production and packaging line, in itself not a huge issue but would entail some downtime.

To store these popular sweets would require 25% extra space in the warehouse...unless of course the company wished to produce 25% less.

Transportation and distribution had not been factored in either. They need 25% longer trucks, 25% larger storage and of course the 25% extra in weight would impact on carriage fees.

Finally, once the revamped snack hit the corner shop shelving, the gap between the hazlenut chocolate bite and the light whipped nougat bar had to be increased by 25% to accept the new king size piece, probably resulting in the untimely end for a less popular snack which was pushed off the end of the display never to be seen again.

# DROPS Throughout the Supply Chain



Amusing as it was, the anecdote illustrated the need to ensure that appropriate communications and change management processes are followed if strategic objectives are to be met.

Using prompt tools such as the DROPS Supply Chain, the principle can be applied to more familiar business processes – in particular controlling and preventing dropped objects through informed considerations and clearly defined responsibilities.

When experienced hands from the field work together with procurement and design, so many potential dropped objects caused by poor selection and manufacture can be eradicated.

When logistics teams and equipment users take the opportunity to identify improvements

in transportation, storage and backloading, potential dropped objects are typically eliminated at source.

When Team Leaders and HSE professionals provide appropriate advice and support in challenging and reporting good and bad working practices or defective equipment, the workforce feels confident that workplace hazards are being identified and the risks assessed and effectively controlled.

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For more information on DROPS Training, or for further awareness materials on the Value Chain, please contact DROPS at:

[campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com)

or call us on +44 (0) 1224 861811



# NEW PRODUCTS & TECHNOLOGIES

DROPS Forums have been the platform for many specialist organisations to present new tools and techniques that can be used in the fight against dropped objects.

To find out more, please take the time to visit each organisation's website.

**SECURALIFT** Safer Cargo Handling – collaborative development of crane hook technology using innovative gyro and remote release systems that enable loads to be positioned and placed without human intervention.

[www.securallift.com](http://www.securallift.com)

**TITAN TORQUE** Drill Bit Protector – eliminating rig tong requirements, reducing dog collar usage and significant reduction in multiple drill floor lifts and manual handling.

[www.titantorque.co.uk](http://www.titantorque.co.uk)

**AKER SOLUTIONS** CCTV IP – advanced drilling camera system with multiple user benefits and best practice secondary retention.

[www.akersolutions.com](http://www.akersolutions.com)

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR SAFETY** - Norwegian/English best safety practice online resource with many free training and awareness tools focusing on dropped object prevention.

[www.samarbeidforsikkerhet.no](http://www.samarbeidforsikkerhet.no)

**SAFE CARGO HANDLING** – DVD produced by Oil & Gas UK promoting guidelines for safe packing and handling of cargo to and from offshore locations.

[www.ukooa.org](http://www.ukooa.org)

**PODOMS** – intuitive dropped object management system software.

[www.pisys.co.uk](http://www.pisys.co.uk)



## DROPS INCIDENTS

DROPS members regularly share incidents and statistics as part of the ongoing effort to raise awareness of dropped objects in the industry.

Here's just a very small selection from 2009, each of these could have resulted in a fatality or very serious injury:

Pivot Pin, Bolt and Locking Wire (0.3kg) fell from upper racking arm to rig floor (26m).

Radio harness failed, radio (0.6kg) fell to rig floor (14m).

Iron roughneck hoses caught on unsecured rig floor hatch cover (4.5kg) which fell to moon pool (18m).

Whip line motor failed. Load dropped 0.5m, headache ball fell 9m.

Lid from empty wooden crate (2.3kg) dislodged from helideck by downdraft and fell to walkway below (6m).

Flashing from shaker house roof blown off in high wind.

Filter housing dropped by technician falls 5m to process deck below.

Length of chain falls onto walkway from bundle of pipe being lifted from supply vessel.

Changing tugger wire, snake opened at sheave and both wires fall to rig floor.

**Dropped objects occur everywhere. Be vigilant, follow procedures, report all potential dropped objects and save yourself and your colleagues.**

# OILFIELD TRASH

Throughout 2009, DROPS members have shared a number of safety alerts that feature 'locally fabricated' or modified equipment identified at the worksite.

**In many cases, these items have caused dropped object incidents, resulting in fatalities, serious injuries and equipment downtime.**

Industry needs to work towards eliminating these hazards. Locally fabricated or modified pieces of equipment expose the workforce to unacceptable additional risks.

**These items must be hunted down, and where appropriate assessed to ensure compliance with the applicable industry design, manufacture, certification and maintenance standards.**

DROPS members recommend that organizations should establish clear expectations on the prohibition of locally fabricated or modified equipment unless reviewed and authorized.

**Prompt surveys of all existing equipment should be undertaken, and all locally fabricated or modified removed from service unless it can be reviewed and authorized for use.**



## **FAILURE OF RIG FABRICATED TOOL RESULTS IN FATALITY**

*The rig crew was using an air hoist to lift a hose assembly in preparation for a well pressure test. The lift accessory being used failed causing the hose assembly to fall striking two members of the rig crew, fatally injuring one.*

**We are all responsible for our own safety and the safety of those around us.** Adhering to these simple guidelines will help eliminate dropped object incidents caused by the failure of locally fabricated or modified equipment:

- **Do not modify or manufacture any equipment without proper authorization and qualification**
- **Make sure that design, manufacture, certification and maintenance data of locally fabricated or modified equipment is clearly documented and adhered to**
- **Remove from service and report ALL equipment that is found to be damaged, has unauthorised or uncertified modifications, or is not appropriate for the intended task**
- **Never accept workplace modifications to equipment without proper authorization.**

**locally fabricated or modified pieces of equipment  
expose our workforce to unacceptable additional risks**

# HAVE YOU GOT YOUR DROPS WORKPACK?

Each pack contains all the tools, products, guidance and awareness issued by the **DROPS** Campaign Team...  
so you can implement your own Dropped Object Awareness Campaign and Management System!



Total number of  
**DROPS Workpacks**  
in use - worldwide

All for only **£ 299**  
+ Carriage / Tax **\$ 449**

For details visit [www.dropsworkpack.com](http://www.dropsworkpack.com) or call the **DROPS** Campaign Team on +44 (0)1224 861811

## Join **DROPS** and play your part...

Have you considered joining the growing band of **DROPS** Workgroup Members?

In 2010, **DROPS** will have active working groups across North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

For further DROPS membership details, contact us now at:

[campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com)

## Any Ideas?



If you have any ideas, comments or suggestions that you wish to share with the **DROPS** Team, send us the details or drop us an email:



**DROPS** Campaign Team  
Silverdot Limited, Blairs College,  
South Deeside Road,  
ABERDEEN AB12 5LF



[campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com](mailto:campaignteam@dropsworkpack.com)



## DROPS

DROPPED OBJECTS  
PREVENTION SCHEME

# DROPPED OBJECTS DO HARM AND DO KILL

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