

Safety Bulletin No. 017
1 April 2019

Contact: Jason Mathews
Phone: (504) 731-1496

Tool Lanyards Improperly Used as Hard Hat Lanyard

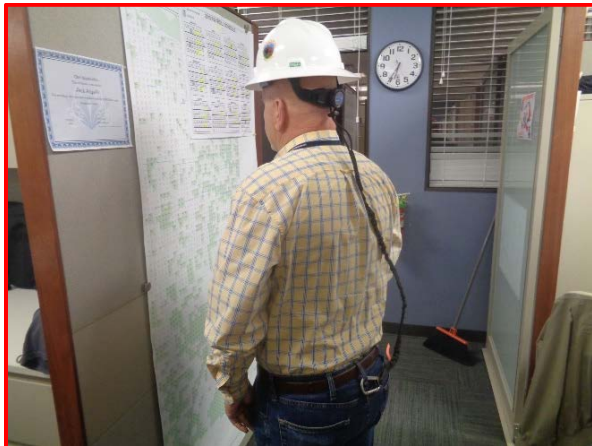


Figure 1: Tool lanyard improperly used as a hard hat lanyard



Figure 2 : Proper hard hat lanyard installed

On a recent trip offshore, a BSEE inspector noticed several personnel using tool lanyards as hard hat safety lanyards (See Fig. 1). The tool lanyard's purpose is to prevent tools from falling when working at heights by securing the tools to fixed points with a carabiner. Personnel should not attach tool lanyards to their bodies, clothing or any items attached to their person. Personnel should use a proper hard hat lanyard (See Fig.2).

The intent of the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) design of tool lanyards is to arrest the fall of various tools when working at heights and allow for recovery of the tool without descending. They are usually longer than hard hat lanyards (See Fig. 3).



Figure 3: Typical hard hat lanyard (top) and typical tool lanyard (bottom)

A tool lanyard attached to a worker with a carabiner latch can pose serious risk of injury when used near rotating or moving equipment. OEMs state that tool lanyard use around rotating or moving equipment requires extra precaution due to the possibility of entrapment in the equipment. The risk of serious injury increases if the lanyard is connected to personnel. OEMs specifically outline the limited circumstances when tool lanyards can be attached to personnel.

Therefore, BSEE recommends that operators consider the following:

- Personnel with Ultimate Work Authority should stop the utilization of tool lanyards as hard hat lanyards and ensure use of the proper hard hat lanyard product.
- Operators and managers should share this Safety Bulletin with offshore personnel and encourage them to report any other misuse of equipment.

-- BSEE--

A **Safety Alert** is a tool used by BSEE to inform the offshore oil and gas industry of the circumstances surrounding an accident or near miss. It also contains recommendations that should help prevent the recurrence of such an incident on the Outer Continental Shelf.