

### DESCRIPTION

A night shift production operator died when he fell into the sea through a rusty grating on the platform. His body was never recovered. Less than 24 hours prior to the incident, a single section of severely corroded and deteriorated grating, posing a walking and working surface hazard, was identified on the north side of the well bay by a supervisor, who said that the grating section felt “spongy” underfoot. Upon examination, he found that bearing bars at one end of the grating section had deteriorated.



01

Pre-Incident photograph of hazardous grating section



02

Post-Incident photograph of hazardous grating section suspended in open hole



03

Post-Incident Photograph of person standing near the open hole



04

Post-Incident Photograph of hazardous grating section

### WHAT WERE THE CAUSES? WHAT WENT WRONG?

Investigation by BSEE found several probable and possible causes – including communication breakdown, poorly maintained walking surfaces, and inadequate barricade installation.

- There was a failure to maintain all walking and working surfaces on the facility in a safe condition;
- Supervisors did not fulfil their responsibilities within the relevant, established Safe Work Practices (SWPs) when they:
  - failed to promptly correct or prevent personnel from accessing the hazardous area;
  - failed to stop work and warn all personnel of the hazardous area.
- The operator and its contractors failed to follow the agreed upon terms and conditions within their respective Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS) bridging arrangements.

### ACTION TAKEN AND LESSONS LEARNED

**Recommendations included:**

- Ensure crew are informed about all identified hazards in a timely and meaningful way;
- When hazards are identified, fix them;
- Better understanding of and agreement between, operators and contractors in terms of safety management systems bridging arrangements.