Scaffold Tower Incidents Dec 2013

NYU Incident details

The IP was helping his workmates move a tube and fitting mobile scaffold, as they moved the scaffold along one wheel slipped off the paving and sank into the sand. As that side sank the opposite side lifted and the wheel fell out of its fitting. When they brought the scaffold back on the level one side tipped causing the scaffold to topple over landing on the IP.

He was taken to hospital where multiple fractures have been diagnosed including the pelvic area, both legs and his ribs. He remains in hospital. (HRA).

The scaffolding was inspected and tagged.

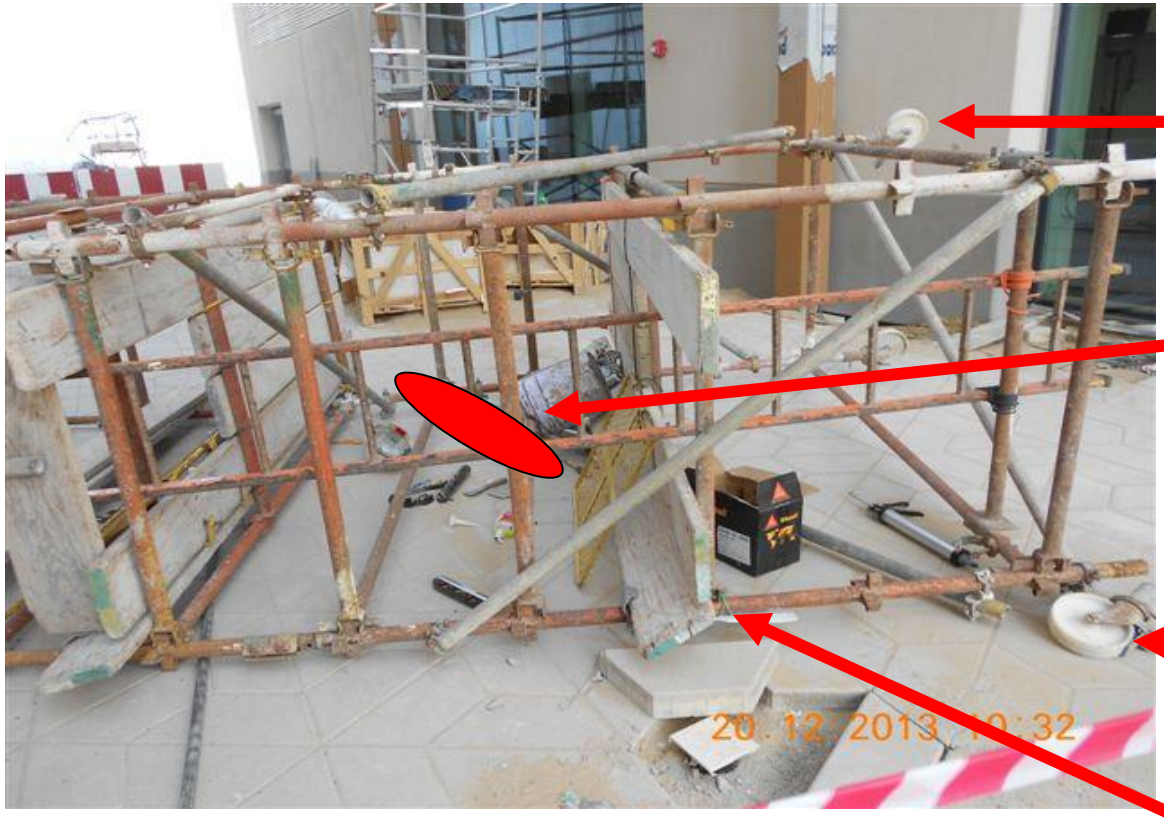
Update

As at the 27th January the IP was undergoing intensive physiotherapy and is responding well to treatment and is walking with the aid of a walking frame.

Photographs

Area where the wheel sank into the sand

location of IP after the incident



Wheel 1

Area IP was trapped below scaffold tower

Wheel 2

Scaff-Tag on Scaffold

Photographs

Causes

Immediate Cause: The Ip was part of a team attempting to move a large Tube and fitting mobile tower when it over turned and landed on the IP.

Underlying Cause: Workers were unaware of the risks of moving heavy equipment and had not ensured the route was adequate.

Root Cause: Lack of understanding and training within the workforce regarding the safe system for moving large mobile access towers.

Action Taken

Safety stand down for whole site.

All workers involved in the use and movement of towers provided with training and a toolbox talk regarding safe movement of all types of scaffolding.

Guidance for safe movement of towers to be drafted and circulated.

EMRILL

On 28th Dec 2013 at approximately 04:45 Hrs, operatives were assigned the task of replacing fused tube light of the ceiling mounted fire exit sign at the entrance of Vision Express shop in Ibn Batuta Mall).

The IP was using a mobile scaffolding (Snappy type- single board platform 750mmX1950mm). Adjacent to the mobile scaffolding his co worker was working. This person decided to push the mobile tower. The sudden movement caused the IP to lose his balance and fall from the scaffolding. He fell a distance of 1.5

He sustained a deep cut injury on lower left side of his head & a penetrating injury on the right hand thumb caused by the electrical tester he was holding at the time. First aid was administered by the shop manager, IP was taken to Rashid hospital for further treatment. His injuries were treated, 4 stitches to his head & 6 stitches on the right hand thumb. IP was granted 4 Days sick leave.

The investigation found that only one hand rail (mid rail) was fitted to the scaffold and no inspection regime was in place

Unsafe mobile scaffolding used for maintenance works. (Missing guardrail on the other edge of the scaffold).

Causes

Immediate Cause: Ip lost his balance and fell due to unexpected movement of the scaffolding.

Underlying Cause: Scaffolding was not erected correctly and had the top rail missing and wheels unlocked.

Root Cause: Workers unaware of the correct erection method for these types of towers and Horseplay.

Actions

Training provided to all in the correct use of mobile towers. To ensure all guardrails are fitted and castor wheels are locked prior to use of mobile scaffold .and that scaffold is only moved when no material or personnel are on the work platform.

Scaffolding should be used only after inspection carried by the competent person/ team leader or Supervisor.

Operatives were reminded of consequences of Horse play.

Incident was briefed to all operatives and Supervisors

Alternatives

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