

# SAFETY Alert



07/2014

## **GAS CYLINDER FALL / physical injury**

**DATE:** December 2014

**ISSUED BY:** QHSE DEPARTMENT

**OBJECT:** GAS CYLINDER FALL / physical injury

### **DESCRIPTION:**

A logistic coordinator had finished the loading of gas cylinders on the truck for transportation to site. As he was closing the gate of the cylinder storage area, he noticed a gas cylinder starting to fall. He instinctively reached out with his left arm to prevent the cylinder from falling to ground. This reaching movement combined with weight of cylinder forced his arm downwards resulting in an abnormal stretching of his elbow which caused a severe pain in the area of his left elbow. He immediately went to HSE office where first aid treatment (ice pack) was provided and was brought to SICIM clinic for examination, upon referral to hospital it was discovered that he had torn the tendon of his left elbow.

### **CONSEQUENCES**

- Dangerous situation created (serious injury exposure);
- Physical injury (surgery needed );
- Impossibility to work (6 weeks recovery );
- Incident investigation (with root causes analysis).



### **CAUSES**

- The procedure for securing cylinders with ratchet straps after the removal, was not followed;
- Incorrect action / decision of the employee;
- Lack of/inadequate training and/or information;
- Underestimated risk.

### **CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

**Several measures implemented to avoid the repetition of other similar episodes:**

#### ***Training:***

- ✓ manual handling training to be undertaken by all employees to provide a better understanding of a person's physical limitations;
- ✓ training provided to cover the exact circumstances of this accident and how to react to instinctive situations without causing personal injury;
- ✓ focus on improving risk perception of employees and assessment with regard to positioning and mass of the object.

#### ***Operating methods:***

- ✓ ensure the responsible secures gas cylinders in storage upright and with ratchet straps at all times;
- ✓ review undertaken of the gas bottle storage area.