

# SAFETY ALERT!



## FULL BODY HARNESS

This safety alert highlights the dangers associated with full body harnesses, and suggests possible control measures that will assist industry in managing the risk.

## Background

A rig crew was doing maintenance inside an elevator shaft. The crew of three all had their full body harnesses on while working in the shaft. The elevator was still in working order and was accidentally activated. The elevator moved up and one of its handles caught onto a D-ring that was part of a worker's full body harness. (A D-ring is a D-shaped metal connector through which a belt or strap passes to close or secure something.) Fortunately, the individual was able to knock the ring loose from the handle before an accident occurred.

## Contributing factors

- The worker was working on the wrong side of the shaft. This led to the D-ring getting caught on the handle.
- The D-ring of the harness was exposed.
- If a D-ring hangs free from a harness it is exposed to elements that could contribute to an accident.
- The elevator was not shut off and locked out during the job.

## Action Required

- Tape the D-ring to the harness so it is not exposed.
- If the D-ring is not used during a specific task, use tape to cover the D-ring hole or make use of other material to cover the hole.
- Always instruct both the maintenance teams working in a shaft as well as the floor men on duty to make sure that the elevators are completely shut off and that a lock-out system is in place to prevent unnecessary activation of elevators.

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