SAFETY ALERT – Swing Rope Awareness

Date: Wednesday, August 4, 2015
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Fieldwood Energy
Subject: Safety Alert; Swing Rope Awareness

There have been recent issues involving swing ropes that call for increased awareness within Fieldwood Energy operations. The materials used in some swing ropes supplied to Fieldwood Energy have been found to not meet FWE minimum standards. Additionally, there were swing ropes found to be installed on Fieldwood Facilities that are made of materials that require careful inspection. While there have been no serious injuries associated with these issues, serious consequences could come as a result. Please review this Safety Alert carefully and evaluate the swing ropes on your facilities for issues as outlined below.

Rope material
During personnel transfer between a boat and platform boat landing, a swing rope failed. Fortunately, the rope failed at the moment when the person transferring was above the boat’s landing deck. He did not suffer injury or fall into the water.

- Upon investigation it was discovered that this swing rope was made of “manila rope” material. This type of rope is prone to interior deterioration that can be difficult to visually detect.
- All existing swing ropes should be thoroughly inspected. Extra attention should be given to the internal strand condition of manila swing ropes. The rope can be “twisted open” to inspect the interior condition of the swing rope (i.e. to identify parted or rotting strands).

Shackles
New swing ropes sent out to the field were recently found to have shackles that do not meet FWE minimum specifications. Corrective actions have been taken to ensure all new swing ropes supplied to Fieldwood Energy are sent with the proper shackles. Fieldwood Energy’s minimum standards regarding shackles can be found in Safe Work Practice Section D Chapter 3.

- It is possible that these unapproved shackles may have been sent out in the past. If so, they could have gone undetected and may have been installed on Fieldwood facilities.
- All existing swing rope shackles should be thoroughly inspected. Extra attention should be given to the type of shackles that are installed. Shackles that do not meet Fieldwood Energy minimum specifications should be replaced.