

# COS SAFETY SHARE

## WHAT WILL WE DO TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING HERE?

### DROPPED COUNTERWEIGHT

#### What happened?

The work crew had completed activities in the bottom of the forward hull column and began to ascend the hull ladder system one at a time utilizing a climb assist system. As a worker ascended the lower hull ladder to mid-level another worker at the hull bottom approached the base of the ladder to determine progress. While looking up the ladder column, the worker saw an object falling and moved out of the way prior to impact.

#### What went wrong?

The object was the climb assist system's 15-pound counterweight which came off the system when the worker at the top of the ladder disconnected. The counterweight fell approximately 105 feet and landed at the base of ladder.

#### Why did it happen?

Counterweight connections were all found to be hand tight which allowed for the weight to be disconnected without tools.

#### What areas were identified for improvement?

Apply thread locker and wrench tighten the carabiner attaching the counterweight to the hoist cable. In addition, add secondary retaining connection to prevent disconnection.

Strengthen training program to include: increased awareness of potential for dropped objects when disconnecting equipment, protocol for communicating secured disconnect completed, and clear procedure for dismantling from system.

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