



The Mousehole

Key Themes

- Culture
- Personal responsibility
- Risk-taking and rule breaking
- Intervention/safety conversations
- Consequences

Target Audience

Operatives, Supervisors and Managers.

Synopsis

The tragic and true story of a horrific death onboard an oil rig. A man is being hoisted in a harness towards the 'Mousehole', a trapdoor in the deck of the rig. His harness slips and instead of hanging vertically, he is dangling horizontally. A radio fails, a crane operator operates blindly, and a man dies. We start after the incident has happened and go back in time to uncover the attitudes and behaviours, which contributed to a fatality. The Mousehole is one of the UK's most frequently performed safety plays.

John-Paul: I called to the winchman to let Stevie through the mouse hole and I watched him go down the platform. That was fine. About twenty minutes or so later and he waved to come up. I called 'Up' for the winch to bring him back. Fine. And then it went.....

HE BREATHES DEEPLY

Sue: Do you need to.....?

John-Paul: No. No. Stevie was almost at the hatch when his harness slipped. He should have been coming up vertically but he'd slipped so that he was horizontal to the hole. I shouted 'Stop' into my radio, but nothing happened. The winch kept pulling Stevie towards the hole. I yelled but the radio.... the bloody radio was dead! It wasn't charged or something but..... I ran to the PA and punched the button, screaming for the winch to stop, but it records what you say! So it took seconds - not many but it took seconds and before the winchman heard me screaming to stop, Stevie had been pulled through the hole. (PAUSE - SLOWLY) I saw it. His spine was pulled through his body.
I killed him.

To book or for more information about this play, or any other training, please contact:

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