

# Shared Learning

Working at Height | Scaffold collapse under high wind loads | Geothermal site

## What happened?

A scaffold 16m High x 5m Wide in the cooling tower basin collapsed onto its side.

The original design included the use of tie downs but a change from the original design occurred as holes were not permitted to be drilled in the basin of the cooling tower.

There was no one onsite at the time the scaffolding collapsed, and we experienced very adverse weather, high wind loading.

It was observed several times prior to the event that the scaffold was rocking or looked unsafe.

## What did we learn?

- Safety Controls must not be compromised
- Consider the management of change process.
- The risk of inclement weather exposure (i.e., high winds/gusts) should be included in onsite risk assessments.
- Establish a culture which invites the ability for anyone on site to ask questions, raise concerns or challenge an instruction. Everyone must have the ability to challenge decisions if something looks unsafe.
- As leaders, follow up on concerns or safety observations raised.

