

## Staying on top of fire management

**R**OPE access specialist Skyriders has been awarded a contract by a large petrochemical company in South Africa for the maintenance of the deluge fire sprinkler system installed on its petrochemical, fuel and gas tanks.

A functional fire protection system is vital in these high hazard chemical processing and storage areas. According to Skyriders marketing manager, Mike Zinn, a four-man team is now permanently stationed at the plant to maintain and repair any damage to the system. "Our team abseils around the tanks to flush the network, unclog the sprinkler nozzles, replace broken nozzles, and test the system."

Any fire, detected heat, smoke or flames will

trigger the opening of a deluge valve, allowing a high velocity discharge of water through all sprinkler nozzles in the deluge system. "It is imperative that the water path is not blocked.

Suppression is necessary to prevent a fire caused by low flash point flammable substances, the likes of which are contained in these tanks, from spreading," adds Zinn.

The deluge fire sprinkler system is not only used to control and extinguish fires. It is also crucial to reduce explosion pressure and cool the tanks. When there's a fire in the vicinity of a tank, the system is activated to spray water around the structures – reducing their tem-

perature and preventing rupturing.

The dedicated Skyriders' team is on site five days a week, 12 months a year. "The group includes a senior level 3 rope access supervisor and three experienced technicians whom he oversees. The project is going well and we look forward to working on similar projects for other clients in the near future," concludes Zinn.

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