

ALERT 14 – 25

SHIFTING LOAD DURING LIFTING OPERATION RESULTS IN MEDICAL TREATMENT CASE

WHAT HAPPENED:

A fly lift for crown sheaves was being prepared using a fly skid. The Load Master requested that the crown sheaves be transferred to a lifting basket due to a shortage of chains for securing. During the re-loading of the sheaves into the basket, an employee climbed into the basket to re-position the sheaves for the lift. During the lift for re-positioning of the crown sheaves, one of the sheaves flipped unexpectedly and uncontrollably, trapping the employee's leg and causing severe lacerations and a puncture wound. The injured person (IP) was treated on location but required a Med-Evac to the hospital for advanced medical treatment.



WHAT CAUSED IT:

- Supervision of the IP was ineffective as the task did not need to be done at that time but this was not clearly understood between the Supervisor and IP.
- Planning for the task was inadequate and the hazards of the task were not identified nor controlled through a proper risk assessment process.
- The communication between the personnel involved was insufficient and poor as the personnel did not really understand what was being done by whom and why.
- Lifting (rigging/sliding) methods used were insufficient and inappropriate – 1 sling was used as opposed to 2 for lifting the previous sheaves (see rear of photo).
- Personal commitment to safety of the job was compromised with no individual willing to “Stop the Job” and question the task methods and safety.
- The IP got into the basket during the lift without understanding the risk he was putting himself under. No one else identified the potential hazard of the IP being in the basket during the lift nor did they intervene to stop the job.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS: To address this incident, this company did the following:

- Personnel must be clear on their task roles and responsibilities, with the Supervisors taking the lead role in the planning and proper assessment of job methods and hazards to ensure risk controls are appropriate for the task and correctly implemented.
- No individual should work or gain access inside baskets or other potentially confined spaces where they may become trapped and/or struck by objects during lifting operations.
- All lifting operations must adopt a (industry accepted) ‘Hands Off’ Policy with appropriate use of tag lines and other positioning devices (i.e., Shepherds Hooks and push bars) to avoid the potential for entrapment injuries.
- The requirement for personal intervention when job safety may be compromised must be reiterated, understood and implemented when necessary by all personnel. Everyone has the Power to Stop the Job if necessary.

The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.

This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers & Supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices