

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Near Miss Log Dump Incident

A loaded truck arrived late at the log dump. The crane operator returned to work to dump the long load. Due to low water levels, the worker lifted and swung the load instead of dropping directly into the water. The crane failed and the crane mast dropped and clipped the back of the rear trailer.

During the spring, an annual inspection of the crane of was successful. In that, the crane was certified for operation. During the incident investigation, broken wire rope strands were found within two of the wedge ferrules located at the base of the back guys (obstructed from view).

The investigation determined that swinging the load in combination with the broken guy wires may have caused the crane to fail.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Ensure that required maintenance inspections and certifications are effectively and appropriately conducted to ensure the safe operation of the equipment.
- Consider increasing the crane's safety factor by increasing the diameter the back guy wires and/or increasing the number of back guys.
- Consider modifying the back guy wire anchor connections to allow for easier inspection.
- Ensure that operators are trained in safe operation of the equipment and that safety observations are carried out to confirm safe performance.
- Ensure comprehensive hazard zones and associated processes to keep workers clear of overhead risks, and that safety observations confirm workers follow established safe work procedures.

IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Ensure annual inspections are performed on all critical safety related controls, equipment, and wires.

Ensure the crane inspector reviews this incident and ensures that future inspections are adequate to prevent reoccurrence. Where close observation is not practicable at the time of inspection, ensure that operation management is aware of this limitation and provide a plan for inspection when practicable.

