



Learning Event



Suspended Load – Uncontrolled Movement

Hazard

Suspended Load



Unwanted Event

Uncontrolled Movement

Description

During rig down operations a power swivel was being lowered into position in preparation to remove it from the work floor.

When the elevators were unlatched, the power swivel came free and swung down to the floor, striking a Floor Hand in the knee on the way down.



Risk Event Statement

Due to a failure to follow lifting procedures while working with suspended loads, uncontrolled movement may occur, which could lead to the load striking people working in the line of fire, resulting in serious injury.

Habits

- ✓ Lifting Procedure in place.
- ✗ Lifting Procedure not followed
- ✗ Lifting equipment not as specified in Procedure.

Learnings

- > The lifting lug specified in the Power Swivel Operations Procedure had previously been fitted. It had been removed as it had not passed NDT testing.
- > The winch line was attached to the elevators. This is a deviation from the normal procedure that utilised the power swivel lifting lug or a sling around the wishbone of the swivel. When the elevators were unlatched there was no winch line attached to a secondary lifting point.
- > The elevator horn lock had been removed prior to the weight of the swivel being transferred to a secondary lifting device.
- > The Management of Change process did not have an updated register of completed plant or equipment modifications/changes.

Considerations

- > Check power swivels to ensure that they are fitted with designated rating lifting lugs as specified in Operating Procedures.
- > Assess risks associated with the rig down and storage process of the power swivel. Review Operating Procedures accordingly.
- > Introduce a register of modified/changed equipment into Management of Change processes to ensure that actions are effectively managed and close out accordingly.

Could this happen to you?

- > Do you work on or near suspended loads? Do you know the Operating Procedures? Do you follow them?
- > Are you authorised to deviate from Operating Procedures? Are you able to assess the associated risks? Do you know how your Management of Change processes work?
- > Have there been any changes to Operating Procedures or equipment associated with suspended loads at your workplace? Are you clear about how you are supposed to operate following these changes?

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