

Briefing Note

Safe Lifting Operations

An incident occurred recently at Wood Wharf where a piling cage weighing 1.8Tonnes, 15m long became detached from the crane and fell approximately 7m while it was being lifted from the horizontal to the vertical, fortunately there were no injuries. The subsequent investigation established that there were a number of factors that lead up to the incident.

- The lift plan was not being followed, instead of chains being connected to the lifting band, the plan said shackles should have been used.
- An untrained and inexperienced person was allowed to participate in the slinging of the load
- The chains being used for the lift were not the correct ones, consequently the hooks were too small for the lifting band.
- The chains had been placed incorrectly which caused the load to be applied to the safety catches which failed and released the cage.



To prevent reoccurrence, with immediate effect the following must be followed :

- Crane Supervisors must at regular intervals, check the Lift Plan to ensure all lifts are being carried out in accordance with the plan. These checks to be recorded.
- Only CPCS card holders will be allowed to participate in high risk activities i.e. lifting operations, plant operation etc.
- Where accidents/incidents occur, works must stop immediately and the area must be cordoned off to investigate the event.
- The Expanded Geotechnical Accident / Incident Reporting Protocol must be implemented as soon as practicable after an incident occurs, even if this is “something has happened, details to follow”
- Slingers must ensure that the lifting accessories they are using are the correct ones for the task in hand

Any questions or concerns regarding Lifting Operations, in the first instance speak to your Foreman or Crane Supervisor

Ian Riley
HSQE Manager