

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 124
Issued 10/08/2020

Line of Fire – Lifting Operations

Incident

This alert has been issued to raise awareness of a lifting incident that resulted in serious injury to a worker. At the time of the event, two experienced and competent workers were undertaking a routine lifting operation using a hydraulic Vehicle Loading Crane, a sudden release of energy resulted in the lifting hook striking the dogman in the cheek. The dogman was on the truck dogging the load and the crane operator was standing at ground level at the rear of the truck operating the crane.

The crane operator had direct line of sight to the dogman on the truck. The workers were using verbal and visual communication to coordinate their lifting activity. After securing the load using a specialised lifting hook, the dogman remained close to the lifted load as an observer.

Initial investigations have identified a retaining pin used to secure the load during transport had been unintentionally left in position. This resulted in the lifting hook (shown immediately above the load pictured) disengaging from the load releasing the stored energy being applied by the crane.



Initial Lessons

Two significant contributors have been identified as part of this event and are critical to immediately form part of any lifting operation undertaken across ARTC.

1. **Plan your lift** – whereby an item is required to be lifted by use of a mechanical device it is critical to plan and understand:
 - a. All locking/securing/restraining devices have been removed
 - b. Location you are lifting to and from - have a clear pathway
 - c. Size/weight of the load
 - d. All equipment is tested, and personnel are competent
2. **Line of Fire** – an exclusion zone must be implemented protecting all workers from being struck, aligned to Fatal and Severe Risk 08 - Crushed by Crane or Lifted Load. (including unforeseen chain/sling breakage).

For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (e.g. via toolbox/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert, please speak directly to your leader.

Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- For further information please contact Brett Teasdale, Principal Advisor Safety, Hunter Valley