

Crane Walkway Clip

During a sheet pile installation, a bracket which was holding in place the walkway came loose and fell from the boom landing on the ground next to the crane. The works supervisor heard a noise, as did the controls operator who was working near the crane.

What Happened?

They stopped work and looked up to see what caused the noise, this is when they saw the bracket falling. The workers on the ground were standing clear of the falling bracket as part of the exclusions zone in operation.

The team immediately stopped works, lowered the crane boom and reported the incident to the site management team and to the mechanic.

The mechanic inspected the broken bracket as well as all others on the boom and they were all found to be in good serviceable condition.

The mechanic stated that he was satisfied there was no further risk of others being damaged and falling and that the crane could resume operations.

What we Know.

- The operator is trained, licensed, and competent
- On inspection, it appeared that a tack weld connecting the bolts to a plate had failed, causing the bracket to come loose and fall.
- Exclusion zones were in place



This incident is currently under investigation but some immediate learnings are:

CHECK

- Exclusions zones are in place for lifting operations
- Identifying the drop zone, providing delineation and ensuring this is communicated to the team during the risk assessment process.
- Weekly inspections with the boom laid down (more often when piling) by the operators of cranes, should include visually inspecting all boom fittings and attachments.

MAINTAIN

- Monitoring the lift area for unexpected site visitors, members of the public and workers who are unaware of the processes.
- All checks on lifting equipment and inspection regimes

Remember, communication is the best tool we have to keep each other safe.