



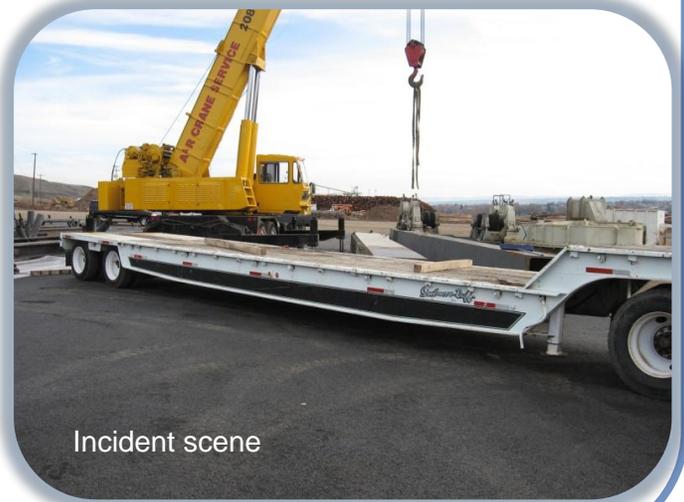
FATALITY NARRATIVE

Crane Rigger Killed When Struck by Falling Crane Load*

Industry: Heavy construction / Crane service
Task: Guiding load being lifted by crane
Occupation: Crane inspector, rigger, and operator
Type of Incident: Struck by falling object / crane related

Release Date: November 5, 2010
Incident Date: November 25, 2008
Case No.: 08WA06001
SHARP Report No.: 71-98-2010

On November 25, 2008, a 46-year-old rigger died when he was struck by a falling load being lifted by a crane. The victim worked for a heavy construction and crane service company. He had been inspecting, rigging, and operating cranes for over 20 years and had been trained and certified as a crane inspector. On the day of the incident the victim was working as the rigger. The job involved moving two crane gantry legs from a staging area to a work area. Each weighed nearly 49,000 pounds. One gantry leg had been successfully picked, placed on a lowboy trailer, and then unloaded by the crane. The second gantry leg was loaded onto the trailer and moved to the work area. The victim was standing by to steady the load with his hand to keep it from swinging. As the crane picked the load off the trailer and began to swing it over to the work area, the rigging straps failed and the load fell on the victim. An investigation determined that the rigging slings failed due to heat friction.



Requirements

- ! Remove damaged synthetic web slings from service. See [WAC 296-24-29431](#).
- ! Ensure those responsible for rigging loads when performing overhead hoisting of material are trained and qualified. See [WAC 296-155-329](#).
- ! Inspect rigging prior to and if necessary during the hoisting of materials or equipment. If equipment is defective, it must be taken out of service. See [WAC 296-155-330](#).
- ! Use sling protection material that is less subject to damage from heat friction. See [WAC 296-155-330](#).
- ! Use a tag line or guide rope to guide loads that swing freely. This provides employees further distance from loads and a safe working area. See [WAC 296-155-525](#).

Recommendations

- ✓ Use rigging that is more durable and less susceptible to heat degradation such as wire rope or chain slings.
- ✓ Use spreader bars along with various hitches to maintain 90 degree angles and distribute weight evenly.
- ✓ Never work under or in the swing radius of suspended loads.
- ✓ Account for the size, shape, and weight of the load and use safe measures to maintain control during the lift.

State Wide Statistics: This was number 67 out of 72 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2008, and was number 18 out of 18 construction-related fatalities.

**This bulletin was developed to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State and is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.*

Developed by WA State [Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation \(FACE\) Program](#) and the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), [WA State Dept. of Labor & Industries](#). The FACE Program is supported in part by a grant from the [National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health \(NIOSH\)](#). For more information, contact the [Safety and Health Assessment and Research for Prevention \(SHARP\) Program](#), 1-888-667-4277.



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