

Safety and health alert

03/99 Dogger run over by tractor crane

Incident

During November 1998 a person was run over by the front wheel of a tractor crane while guiding a suspended 3.5 tonne load near a railway line.

The load being carried by the crane was a rail sleeper inserting machine. It was suspended from a lifting eye fixed to the top of the machine. This was a direct lift with no sling or exercise of judgement required and did not require a certificated dogger.

The person guiding the load was not using a tag line to maintain a safe distance. He was holding the load with his hands and was walking just in front of the front right wheel of the crane.

The hydraulic ram and frame of the crane obstructed the crane driver's view of the person guiding the load.

As the load started to swing it struck the person guiding it and knocked him over. His right leg was then run over by the crane.

Factors

- The person guiding the load was walking between the load and the front wheel of the crane.
- No tag lines were used.
- The person guiding the load was out of visual range of the crane operator.

Recommendations

1. No person should enter the zone between the wheels of a tractor crane and a suspended load.
2. Tag lines should always be used to guide suspended loads from a safe distance.
3. Only suitably trained personnel should be involved in moving loads with load shifting equipment.
4. Crane operators should ensure areas not visible to them whilst operating are clear.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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