

Safety and health alert

07/04 Wearing seat belt saves crane operator from serious injury

Incident

The operator of an 8 tonne non-slewing mobile crane sustained only a minor back injury when the crane he was operating rolled over. He was wearing his seat belt, which prevented him from being thrown from the cabin.

The crane operator was travelling with a load on a newly constructed limestone pad when the edge of the pad subsided, causing the crane to tilt. The sudden movement of the crane caused the suspended load to swing and the crane to roll over.

Factors

Sudden movements of a mobile crane when travelling with a load may cause the suspended load to swing if the ground is not firm or level. The crane may become unstable and roll over. Planning the travel route will ensure the crane is traversed on firm level ground, free of any obstacles.

Recommendations

1. Where powered mobile plant is provided with seat belt attaching points, a seat belt must be fitted and the operator of the plant must use the seat belt at all times when driving or operating that plant. (Refer to Regulation 4.44(5)(b) of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996).
2. Ensure seat belts are regularly checked and maintained to minimise wear and tear.
3. Crane operators must comply with crane operational requirements of the National Occupational Health and Safety Certification Standard for Users and Operators of Industrial Equipment [NOHSC: 1006 (2001)]. [Under Category for Cranes, the Relevant Elements of Competence are 1.2, 2.1 and 4.1]

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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