



SAFETY FLASH

Contractor Recordable.

Hammer falls from crane and injures operator

Incident Description

- On April 27th, 2010 at the Baton Rouge SMR a crane operator with Turner was injured when a hammer crashed through his safety glass roof. The contractor had a gash in his head and it is unknown as to what actually caused the cut.
- He was making a difficult lift with no hard hat which is industry practice and typically not required when inside an enclosed vehicle.



Incident Description

- **The hammer was left on the crane by an iron worker assisting the operator to swing the jib out. The iron worker claims that he thought the operator would need it later and was pulled to another job.**
- **The operator did a pre lift inspection according to his check list but was unable to see the hammer.**



The hammer was on the yellow part of the boom.

Follow Up

- From the size of the cut it was obvious treatment was needed. At this point an AP tech stopped the bleeding and cleaned around the wound. The foreman took his employee /contractor to the emergency center.
- A total of 3 staples were needed to close the cut.
- Because of the staples this was an OSHA recordable injury. The contractor did return to work on his next scheduled day.



Consequence of complacency

Vigilance can save lives

- **One of our core values is that all accidents are preventable. In this case many things could have prevented this from becoming an injury.**
 - 1. The hammer should have never been left on the boom**
 - 2. The operator could have taken a little more time looking at his equipment**
 - 3. A painter working on another job noticed the hammer and did not report it to the proper personnel**

A.C.E.

- **As a result of the A.C.E we will be making some requests to the APCI standards committee.**
 - **Update the Appendix D of the crane inspection requirement to include conducting a visual inspection of all surfaces to ensure they are free of debris.**
 - **Determine If APCI policy should address hard hat requirements while working in an enclosed vehicle.**
 - **Investigate alternative head impact PPE that could be worn so as not to obstruct the view during crane operations.**
 - **Bump cap**
 - **Bicycle helmet**

Things to consider

- **Permit and require JSA on all crane operations, modifications, set up, and the actual lift.**
- **Communication is key! Everyone involved needs to know exactly what's going on. A lift plan and a lift permit can not cover setting up or modifications to equipment. The tools they are using need to be documented and accounted for. LSO training “crane safety-basic” is available and may be added to operations list at a later date.**
- **Consider requiring a hard hat if it will not obstruct the operators view.**

I'm sure that everyone involved in this incident will check more than twice before lifting a boom. Just remember it could have happened to anyone.

We can all learn a lesson from this. It's the jobs that we do everyday that are more likely to catch us off guard. Take the time to check twice, it could save your life.

Thank you