

SAFETY ALERT

UNEXPECTED TELESCOPIC FORKLIFT DROPPED LOAD DUE TO CHAIN FAILURE: Highlights need to verify maintenance & inspections



Clearly delineate responsibilities for maintenance and inspections of any heavy equipment (especially when renting) before work begins – NAVFAC QA program representatives will spot check documentation.

What can go wrong?

What can I do about it?

If I can't do anything about it, whom do I tell?

Photo shows missing chain on boom spine after a chain failure. Boom section is designed with a chain that travels the length of the boom.



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Photo shows broken chain sections occurring on two separate links



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Lack of lubrication increases likelihood of water intrusion leading to corrosion (rust). The additional stress can result in fractures and wear.



Broken chain links

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Several other fractures visible along chain beyond break points. Chain observed with rust and no lubricant.



No chain lubrication with cracks visible



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Photo of links where a break occurred. Notice that one link has a section with rust and one without and that one link shows previous in service wear at the breaking point



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Deficiency: This photo demonstrates an example where some chain lubrication has been applied mostly on the surface, but not enough to penetrate movement contact points.



Inadequately lubricated chain



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WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Accurate up to date maintenance records in Activity Hazard Analysis (AHA) before work begins followed by documented visual inspections.



Example of a properly lubricated chain

Use manufacturer recommended lubricant



For contract compliance refer to USACE EM 385 1-1 Chapter 18