

A pod, supported by a crane, makes an unexpected descent of one meter with three workers in it when the ball of the hook snags a beam

Three workers take place in a pod supported by a crane to inspect the upper blades in an outside tank. One of the workers, acting as a signalman, is directing the crane operator from the pod using a radio. After a short stop, he informs the operator of the crane to resume the descent. The cable begins to unwind, but the pod does not move. Another one of the workers sticks his head out of the pod to check what is happening. At the same time, the ball that had snagged a beam suddenly releases and the pod drops down one metre. The backlash propels the worker's face onto the railing causing minor injuries.

Serious incident

Date : June 15, 2017

Category : Plant

Activity: Reservoir inspection

Job title : Technician

Causes of the Accident

- The ball (ballast) of the crane snagged the reservoir's structure that resulted in a sudden drop of one metre when it was released.
- Neither the employee in the pod nor the crane operator could see the position of the ball.



Preventative Measures by the Company

- Inspection of the integrity of the pod and the multiple 4-strand steel slings by the manufacturer.
- Inspection of the crane lifting mechanism including a compliance report by the crane supplier.
- Adding a sliding door on the roof of the pod allowing the signalman to observe the position of the ball and the cable during its movements.
- As a temporary measure, pending the installation of a door on the cage to see the ball, assign a signalman to see that the ball does not encounter structural elements during work in the tanks.
- Mention to the event in the monthly security meeting.
- Revision of the working method including communications required for tank inspection or repair.

Additional Information

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To publish an ACCIDENT ALERT for other mines, contact:

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