

Unexpected movement of an overhead crane caused by the maintenance of the secondary remote control

A mechanic is doing maintenance work on an 18,000 lb mobile equipment. The part is on the ground with its slings still hooked to the overhead crane. The remote control is on the table and the mechanic is located between the load and the wall. He is working on the equipment when suddenly, the overhead crane comes on and raises the equipment by a few metres. The worker moves away and informs a colleague who turns the main power switch off. Their investigation reveals that the unexpected movement of the overhead crane was caused by a technician doing maintenance and activating the secondary remote control some 100 metres from the mechanical workshop.

Serious event

Date: May 27, 2016

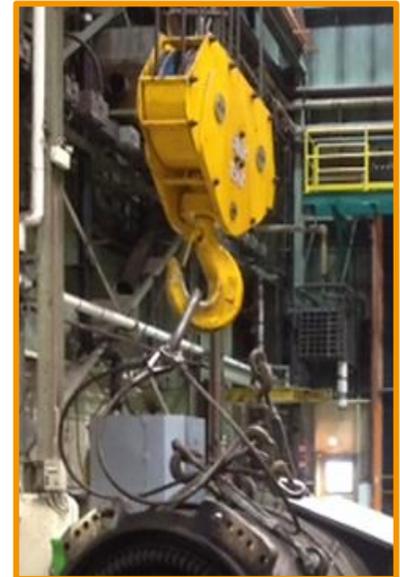
Category: Mechanical workshop

Activity: Mechanical maintenance

Job title: Mechanic and technician

Causes of the accident

- There is no procedure or safe work method for the maintenance of the secondary remote control.
- Access to the shop storage box padlock is pre-authorized and within reach of the technician.
- The overhead crane is powered-up when work is performed on the secondary remote control.
- There was no risk analysis done by the technician prior to the work



Preventative Measures by the Company

- Develop a procedure which will include access to the secondary remote control and the power source controls (padlocking the overhead crane, the communication, the various work steps, etc.). Include these steps with the work order.
- With overhead cranes having more than one remote control unit, review and include in the load handling program that all but one of these be stored away during maintenance.
- Broadcast the appropriate work method which should include that all lifting accessories should be removed and that the overhead crane must be returned to its parking area following all procedures.
- Go back to the incident and share with the team the lessons learned by the foremen and the technician on the importance of doing a risk-analysis beforehand.

Additional information

Rules

- Règlement sur la santé et la sécurité du travail (RSST), 1.1 – *Padlocking and other power source control methods*
 - Online or purchased through www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca

References

- Rigging and lifting equipment (FR)- Multiprévention ASP (2010) 93 p.
 - On ligne at <http://multiprevention.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/multiprevention-guide-greage.pdf>
- Overhead cranes - Safety manual (FR) - INRS (2011) 80 p.
 - On ligne at <http://www.inrs.fr/media.html?refINRS=ED%206105>

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