

Contractor Fatality

Struck by Dropped Suspended Load



Activity: A barge crane operated was conducting maintenance on a mooring buoy, and included up to six workers working on the deck of a floating work barge under a 12,000lb mooring buoy, which was suspended overhead by a floating lattice boom barge crane. The buoy was being lifted by an anchor plate that was bolted to a flange located on the topside of the buoy. Initial inspection of both the anchor plate and the mounting flange showed signs of severe corrosion. A secondary restraint system consisting of a wire rope sling in a basket configuration was in use at the time of the lift, but due to the shock load caused by the perceived failure of the primary rigging system, the wire rope also failed and allowed the buoy to fall, striking two employees, who later died, and injuring two employees. The two other employees working on the barge did not sustain injuries.



Potential Causes:

- Employees may not have been fully aware of their surroundings and seemed to have been working under the load or in areas that are considered danger zones within the crane operating envelope.

Communication Points:

- Employees shall avoid – to the greatest extent possible – from working under a suspended load.
- All individuals associated with weight handling operations shall be aware of the operating envelope of the equipment and safe positioning locations