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## Lessons learned - Abstract of a Mishap



**Accident Type:** Class-C  
**Injury:** None  
**Type of Work:** Crane

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE MISHAP:**

On December 14, 2009 a 140 ton model 3900 Manitowoc crane, owned and operated by a subcontractor, was preparing to install pre-cast concrete. Both of the crane engines (locomotion and crane) were running. Both load lines were secured to the frame of the crane using synthetic web slings and shackles. The operator left the crane to look for a forklift. While the crane was unattended the boom started to rise until at 9:33 a.m. the two anchor points (where the load lines were attached) broke off the frame and the boom collapsed backward and crushed the northeast corner of one of the temporary trailers on site.

**ROOT CAUSES:** Crane was left unattended while engines were running. The crane's rear torque converter control was rigged to be on full power, bypassing the controls in the operator's cab.

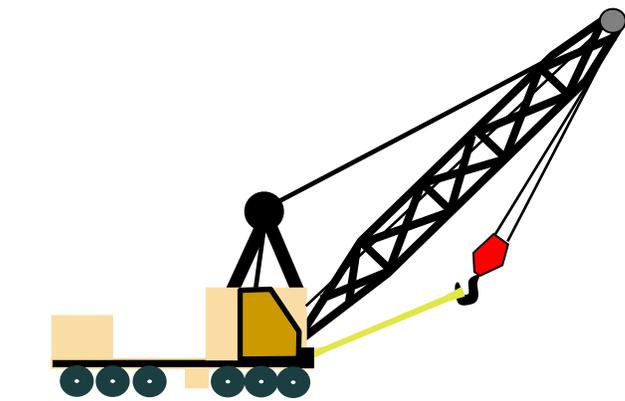
### **CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:**

- a. Water was in the air system.
- b. There were indicators that the most recent annual crane certification inspection was not thorough.

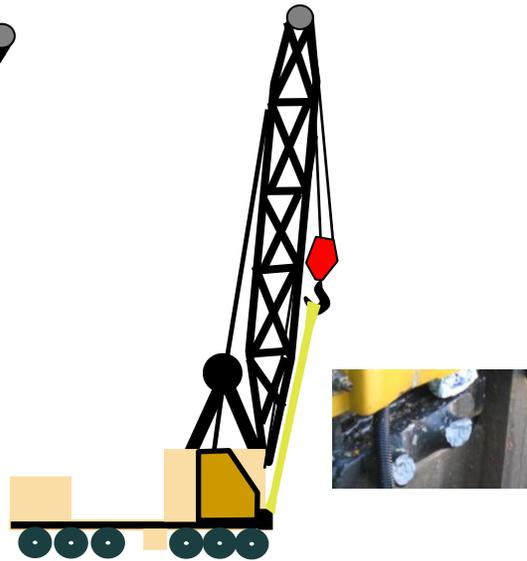
### **LESSONS LEARNED:**

- a. Cranes must never be left unattended while running.
- b. Just because a crane had its annual inspection doesn't mean it's safe.
- c. Just because an operator is certified by National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) doesn't mean he'll act professionally.
- d. Controls must be well maintained and never bypassed.

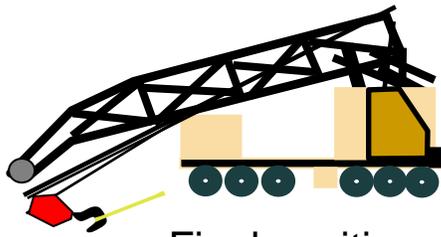
### **YOUR SAFETY CONTACT IS:**



Original position – crane idling (there were two hooks – only one shown)



Approximate position when two loud pops were heard (cast iron rings breaking off)



Final position

