



Falling Corroded Crane Component Results in Near Miss

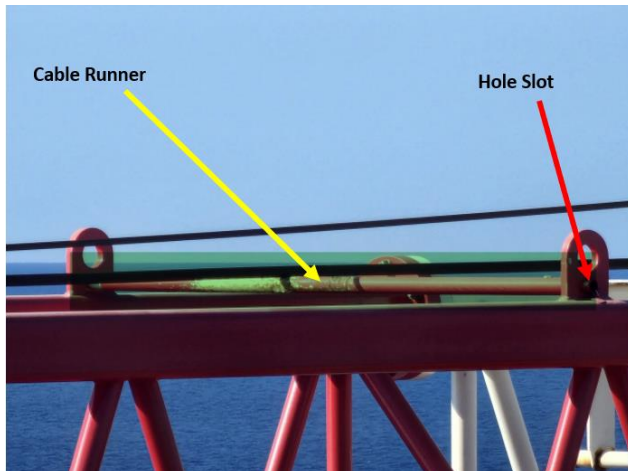


Figure 1: Corroded crane boom cable runner / roller on crane boom.



Figure 2: Area where cable roller / runner landed.

Background:

A near-miss incident involving a dropped object occurred on an offshore platform in the Gulf of America during the maintenance and inspection of a platform crane. While the crane was undergoing maintenance, a corroded cable runner on the crane's boom separated and fell approximately 50 feet to the deck below. The cable runner was approximately 66 inches long, 1 inch in diameter, and weighed approximately 15 pounds. During inspection of the cable runner, corrosion was found to have compromised its integrity, causing it to separate from the crane's boom and fall to the deck below. Following the incident, an inspection of the separated cable runner found significant corrosion that had compromised its integrity, leading to failure and subsequent drop. The crane had been out of service for approximately three years and three months before the incident. When the cable runner separated and fell, it landed on the platform's top deck approximately 20 feet from nearby personnel.

Incident Findings:

- The most recent annual inspection of the crane, conducted in 2022, identified significant corrosion on the crane's boom, including the cable rollers/runners. Before the incident, the operator failed to carry out the recommended repairs noted in the inspection.
- During job planning, the team did not identify the crane boom and its components as a hazard. The crane technicians identified only hand tools as falling-object hazards in the job safety analysis (JSA) and overlooked the need for barricades or warning signs for the task.
- The technicians failed to barricade the area underneath the crane before starting operations, and to prevent personnel from entering the area, given the possibility of dropped objects identified in the JSA.
- During the pre-job assessment, supervision failed to ensure that the area where work was to be performed was properly secured and that no unnecessary personnel entered the area with dropped object risks.
- The threat of serious injury or fatality occurring was present due to the size and weight of the cable roller that fell 50 feet to the deck below.

To help prevent similar incidents in the future, BSEE recommends that operators and their contractors, where appropriate, consider the following:

- Include equipment in poor condition that is being serviced as a possible source of dropped objects when conducting dropped object hazard identification.
- If a dropped object hazard is identified, establish barriers and other controls to minimize the risk to personnel and equipment below the work area.
- Conduct an inclusive, detailed JSA meeting for all personnel involved to provide input on identifying any potential hazards present during the work being performed and the best way to mitigate them.
- Supervisors should be proactive with their personnel and discuss any concerns before and during the work.
- Develop and discuss the JSA being performed and ensure that mitigation techniques are identified for any hazards identified during the JSA meeting.

CATEGORY: Cranes, Personnel Safety

- Follow maintenance recommendations and promptly perform repairs recommended by certified maintenance technicians.
- Emphasize increased awareness of aging and neglected equipment during maintenance, inspections or decommissioning activities.

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A Safety Alert is a tool used by BSEE to inform the offshore oil and gas industry of the circumstances surrounding a potential safety issue. It also contains recommendations that could assist avoiding potential incidents on the Outer Continental Shelf.