

SAFETY ALERT

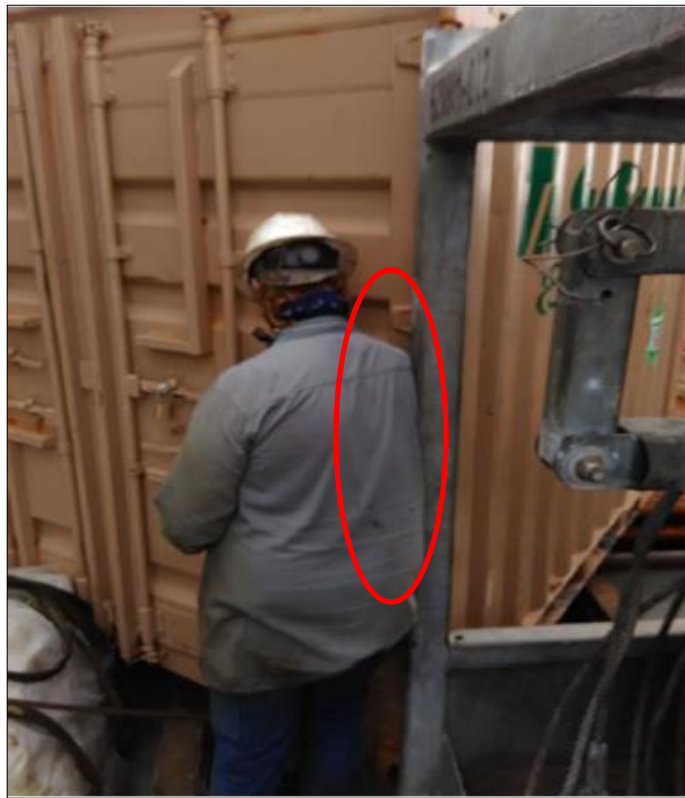


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Recent Uptick in Lifting Injuries due to Unrecognized Pinch Point Hazards

In the first half of Calendar Year 2021, numerous incidents reported to BSEE were classified as pinch points, resulting in injuries varying in severity (i.e., from first aids to lost-time accidents). The tasks leading up to the incidents were primarily associated with lifting/rigging. Due to the significant increase in these types of occurrences in the Gulf of Mexico, BSEE concentrated on the relevant hazards to identify improvement opportunities. Below are the descriptions of sampled events for background:



Re-enactment of Pinch Point Location as Identified in Incident #1.

Incident #1: Rig floor personnel attempted to reposition a Connex box initially set in a precarious orientation on a pipe rack. When the crane operator began to lift the load, the box inadvertently shifted, causing the box to pin the arm of the individual monitoring the load between a sling rack and the load (see photograph above). The injured person sustained bruising and abrasions on his right arm.

Incident #2: During a dynamic lift offloading grating from the facility to the motor vessel (M/V), the M/V deckhand guided the load using a tagline. As the load approached the M/V, the crane operator lowered the boom to avoid an obstruction on the boat's deck. Simultaneously, the deckhand began pushing the load with his hands to provide additional assistance in preventing contact. The load briefly contacted the boat deck during this movement, pinching the deckhand's finger between the two pieces of grating being lifted, resulting in a partial amputation.

Therefore, BSEE recommends that operators and contractors consider the following:

- Verify all designated flaggers assigned to monitoring the load can maintain open communication and a clear line of sight throughout the lift.
- Ensure pre-job reviews contain discussion points for reducing the risk of a pinch point incident occurring, such as load dimensions, load travel path, environmental conditions (i.e., sea state and wind speed), and Stop Work Authority.
- Confirm the boom is centered over the load before the lift to minimize the potential for the load to swing.
- Validate an adequate amount of deck space is available to maneuver, control, and land the load safely.
- Emphasize to field crews Hands-Off / Hands-Free standards when a load is in suspension or transit.
- Promote the use of taglines throughout the entire lifting operation.

--BSEE--

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.