

SAFETY ALERT

Crush Injuries during Crane Lift

Document No: **IW-HSQE-SA-19**

Revision: 1.00

Approved By: Neil Lenehan

Effective Date: 11/7/2018

1. What Happened?

A banksman who had recently started works on the site suffered multiple fractures to his pelvis during a crane lift of a shuttering pan.

The shuttering pan which weighed approximately 500kg (3m High x 3.3m Wide) was being lifted into a process tank when the IP climbed a tied ladder (pre-installed for other works) to gather the tag line attached. While on the ladder, a gust of wind moved the shuttering pan and it made contact with the IP. The IP was momentarily pushed against pre-installed reinforcing steel. This impact resulted in multiple fractures to the IP's hip. The IP managed to descend the ladder but was in significant pain.



2. Immediate Actions

Works stopped immediately on site and emergency services contacted – the ambulance and fire services assisted in the rescue of the IP from the tank.

3. Further Actions

An accident investigation was undertaken and the following was found:

- A recent change in site management for the PSCS resulted in a miscommunication about the responsibilities of carrying out site inductions.
- The IP was not inducted on the site and the Method Statement and Risk

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Assessments for the works was not communicated to the IP.

- The crane being used for the lift did not have an anemometer to monitor wind speed (it was documented in the lift plan that this was a requirement). Wind conditions were perceived to be calm; however, an unexpected gust of wind did catch the shutter on the day of the incident.
- IP did not adhere to safe working practices (banksman should have a supervisory role only for all lifts). The IP opportunistically used a ladder to collect the tag line to assist in the installation of the shutter while also performing the role of banksman.
- The Emergency Response Plan (ERP) was not sufficient. There was no adequate means of removing the IP from the tank and the giving of directions to the site location was proven difficult to the emergency services (no Eircode in the ERP).

Actions to prevent a reoccurrence

- Ensure responsibilities are clearly communicated at site management level when there are personnel changes.
- Ensure all personnel are inducted to site and briefed on the Method Statement and Risk Assessment for the works.
- Ensure Banksman responsibilities are clearly defined prior to commencement of works.
- Remove equipment/ladders when they are no longer required to prevent opportunistic usage.
- Ensure the weather conditions are closely monitored at all times and an anemometer should be available to measure wind speed.
- Ensure the emergency response plan is adequate to deal with all emergency situations and regular drills carried out to ensure its effectiveness.

4. Further Information

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For further information on this safety alert please contact hsqe@water.ie

5. Distribution list

Internal		
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