

HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT N°20

CRANE BOOMS CLASHING



The Incident

On Monday the 28th May 2012 at approximately 09:00, the TC2 tower crane was requested to move some plywood within the PSC area at site 4.

At the same time a mobile crane had just completed a lift into the connection shaft and was withdrawing the lifting accessories, block and hook.

As the tower crane slewed into position, the rear boom, of the tower crane, came into contact with the mobile crane boom causing minor damage to mobile crane

Investigation

The tower crane had a specific working zone in which to operate; the lift it was carrying out was outside of the agreed zone.

The boom of the mobile crane was extended so it could complete its task which meant the current configuration of the mobile crane had extended the boom an additional 20mtrs.

This change in the rigging configuration was not briefed to the banksman or crane operators at the start of their shift.

The banksman instructed the tower crane to slew to the PSC area thus causing the collision.

Findings

It appears communication broke down and a series of events led to this incident, points listed below:

- Lack of change control management
- Lift supervisor did not brief the team on the addendum to the lift plan
- The tower crane banksman did not perceive a risk in carrying out the lift
- The tower crane lift, for the PSC area, was not planned or communicated
- The lift supervisor was not aware of the lift for PSC area
- Over the previous weekend the slew restriction device was switched off and not turned back on