

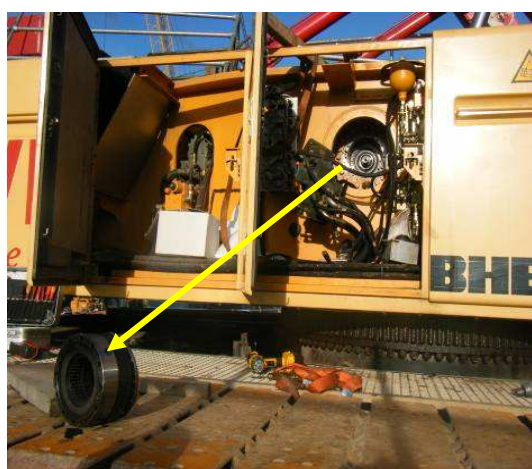
HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT No.22

UNCONTROLLED MAINTENANCE OPERATION



The incident

The Failure to follow the correct maintenance procedures by a visiting engineer caused the Winch rope brake device to become separated from the 200 tonne crawler crane brake drum housing.



The brake drum once separated from the main brake housing allowed the winch rope drum to free wheel, allowing for the uncontrolled descent of 7 tonne hook block which came to rest on the ground adjacent to the loading hopper.



The Hook block travelled approximately 5 meters before coming to rest, fortunately there were no personnel injuries or property damage, however the potential for a serious incident was there.

The Investigation.



The investigation for this incident showed that the maintenance fitter attended site without contacting the site office and therefore, there was no control over the operation, no risk assessment, no method statement checks were seen. The maintenance fitter didn't follow his companies' procedure for removing the winch brake drum.

The Findings .

All future maintenance operation personnel should not be allowed onto the working area until they have contacted the site management team and discussed the methodology of their planned work, so that site team can ensure the necessary arrangements for a safe system of work are in place prior to any maintenance operations being carried out, reviewing the risk assessment to ensure it is suitable and sufficient to cover the task.