Mechanical Lifting Fatality

Description:
A fatality occurred on July 7, 2022, shortly after 3 am at an oilsands shovel pad location. A team was lowering a pendant cable assembly from a crane when the pendant cable fell resulting in a fatal injury.

What Went Wrong:
An investigation into this incident is ongoing and it is premature to say what led to this tragedy. This alert reiterates proactive measures that should always be taken when performing mechanical lifting activities.

Life Saving Rules:
This alert relates to the following excerpts from the rules:

Safe Mechanical Lifting

- I confirm that the equipment and load have been inspected and are fit for purpose.
- I only operate equipment that I am qualified to use.
- I never walk under a suspended load.

Line of Fire

- I position myself to avoid dropped objects.
- I establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones.

Proactive Measures:

- Never walk or work under a suspended load.
- Use proper rigging components and configuration.
- Inspect rigging before use.
- Use tag lines to control the load. If the use of a tag line increases the risk to a worker, use another method of load control.
- Establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones.
- Ensure all slings have a legible tag including size, length of sling, type of construction, name or trademark of manufacturer, and the safe working load.
- Ensure that workers conducting rigging activities are deemed competent and qualified.
- Ensure lifts are conducted with a lift plan as per the work permit, hazard assessment or work procedure requirements.
- Ensure all workers involved participate in a pre-lift hazard assessment.
- Review crane and rigging standards, practices and work procedures.

Industry Resources:

- Life Saving Rules
- Are You in the "Line of Fire?" Program
- Dropped Objects Program

Help industry by sharing lessons learned from an incident. Submit your Safety Alert.
SHARE AND COLLABORATE
Energy Safety Canada (ESC) works collaboratively with industry to share information aimed at helping companies of all sizes improve safe work performance.

DISCLAIMER
Use of this document or any information contained herein is at the user’s sole risk. ESC makes no representations and assumes no liability. For further information on these restrictions, go to https://www.energysafetycanada.com/Legal.

COPYRIGHT/RIGHT TO REPRODUCE
Copyright for this document is held by Energy Safety Canada, 2022. All rights reserved. Energy Safety Canada encourages the copying, reproduction and distribution of this document to promote health and safety in the workplace, if Energy Safety Canada is acknowledged. However, no part of this publication may be copied, reproduced or distributed for profit or other commercial enterprise, nor may any part be incorporated into any other publication, without written permission of Energy Safety Canada.