



Priority Learning Moment

Industry-Submitted Incident Notification

IN-017-2026 | Potential Dropped Object – Paddle Blind

This Priority Learning Moment has been submitted to Energy Safety Canada by a company wishing to share a safety lesson.

Incident Description:

- A 16" paddle blind was hoisted with a crane into position ~60' above ground level.
- The blind was then landed in position between a flange and disconnected from the crane.
- While the paddle blind was being positioned and bolted into the flange, the handle was tapped with a hammer to achieve the desired position.
- After being tapped with a hammer, the handle broke off completely, as shown in the pictures below.
- Had the welded handle failed while being flown into position, it would have fallen to the ground.
- Adequate controlled lifting zones were in place to keep people out of the line of fire.
- The weld on the paddle blind handle had been recently mag particle tested and visually inspected.



Fully casted and certified blinds are permitted to be lifted.

Welded paddle blind handles are NOT approved for lifting.



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Contributing Factor:

Post-event inspection of the paddle blind found that the welds used to secure the handle lacked adequate penetration, which could not be detected visually or by mag particle testing.

Required Actions:

- Ensure continued diligence in controlling all lifting zones to ensure a falling object cannot strike any personnel.
- Any “non-engineered” lifting handles on blinds or similar equipment shall only be hoisted inside of an engineered material basket.
- Ensure all blinds without engineered lifting points are only lifted to elevated work areas in an engineered material basket or removed from service to prevent future failures causing harm.
- The Safe Mechanical Lifting Practice will be updated to include no suspended lifting of welded flanges.

Learning Together

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) facilitates the sharing of safety knowledge to support industry-wide learning and continuous improvement. By making lessons learned and leading practices accessible, ESC helps organizations of all sizes learn from one another and strengthen safe work performance.

This resource is intended to support learning and informed decision-making. Every organization is responsible for determining how the information applies to its own operations. For the full legal disclaimer, visit energysafetycanada.com/legal.

Share a Priority Learning Moment

Every lesson shared has the potential to prevent an incident. If your organization has a Priority Learning Moment, [we'd like to hear from you](#).