Safety Meeting Topic

Safety Alert - Load Dropped from Tower Crane

training by OOSHEW.org

Summary

On Wednesday August 10, 2016 at a Vancouver construction site for a new 18 storey high rise, a load of ducting fell from 9 stories high while lifted by the tower crane. The load was a bundle of sheet metal ducting weighing 400lbs - 500lbs. As the load was lifted the ducting shifted and slid off from the pallet falling to the ground, the pallet remained on the pallet forks.

Incident Findings

- The load of ducting was shrink wrapped however it was not shrink wrapped to the pallet, there was no other means in place to secure the load to the pallet.
- A “Boscara Telescopic Automatic Balance Pallet Fork” was used for lifting the pallet.
- The forks were not adjusted evenly to ensure a balanced lift.
- The load & pallet was not secured to the pallet fork.
- The rigger did not assess for load instability and load security.
- The site only has one rigger, the rigger must both attach the loads and detach the loads.
- A proper material handling box was available onsite for handling ducting, the workers were rushed to deliver materials so they did not remove the ducting from the pallet and place into the material handling box.

Lessons Learned

- Always ensure loads are effectively secured from falling.
- Always use the correct and approved material handling boxes where applicable.
- Plan the work, assess the work, no rushing, follow safe work practices.
- Have a rigger at the pick location and a rigger at the drop location.
- Where practicable, setup a control zone to restrict people from entering the lift zone and flight path.

Conclusion

It is a normal practice for tower cranes to lift and move materials around the worksite regularly throughout the work shift and it is very easy to become complacent with this activity. Understand and follow the safe work practices, always complete a field level hazard & risk assessment, and always be observant.
Poor planning, poor risk assessment and rushing allowed this incident to occur, it could have resulted in a fatality.

Meeting Participation

- Do we have a safe work practice for rigging and/or material handling? Have we reviewed it? Are we practicing it?
- Do we have the necessary tools/equipment for effective securement of loads? What do we need?
- Do we have a designated rigger? Do we need a rigger?
- Are we trained on rigging and/or material handling? Do we need further training?

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Safety Meeting Attendance Sheet

Date of Meeting:

Location of Meeting:

Supervisor:

Attendee Name	Attendee Name	Attendee Name