

# SAFETY ALERT

Ref No: SA/2022/08

Date: 05<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2022

Subject: DROPPED CARGO – HIGH POTENTIAL NEAR MISS

## What Happened:

A Harbour Mobile Crane was in position to begin a discharge of a bulk Maize vessel and the associated Hopper was in the process of being set up in position.

The Crane Operator took a grab of maize from the vessel and suspended the full grab near the Hopper for a period of around 15-20 mins whilst the Hopper set up was completed.

The Operator began to slew towards the vessel whilst opening the grab, having forgotten that a full grab had previously been taken from the hold, and once the cargo began to fall the Operator immediately closed the grab. However approximately 10 Tons of Maize had already fallen from a height of around nineteen meters damaging the Hopper outrigger.

No injuries were sustained; however, two workers were operating within the immediate vicinity of the dropped cargo.

## Lessons:

This incident highlights the dangers of suspended loads, the need to remain vigilant and to stay well clear of the entire slew path of a cranes load.

It is also key that no aspect of a vessel discharge should commence until all plant and equipment has been set up in position ready to function and the full team have confirmed readiness to start. This should be reflected in the method statements and be communicated to all operating personnel.

Loads should only be left suspended for the time required to complete the lift safely and if for any reason a transfer must be paused the load should be suspended in a safe manner e.g., over a stockpile, hold or hopper.

If there has been any pause in an activity, time should be taken to ensure all parties know the stage in the process where the pause had occurred in order that restart can happen correctly.

The PSS Safety Alert system intends to flag accidents / incidents directly to members to enable them to take onboard any necessary learning or developments.

PSS are grateful to Forth Ports for sharing this incident information for the benefit of the membership community, their Safety Alert is attached for further information.



# Safety Alert

## The Facts

- On the morning of 03 August at approximately 8.10am the Operations Team had set up the Harbour Mobile Crane in position to begin the discharge of a bulk Maize vessel. The associated Hopper was in the process of being set up in position to work with the crane.
- The Crane Operator took a grab of maize from the vessel and suspended the full grab near the hopper for a period of around 15-20 mins whilst the hopper was being set up in position.
- The Operator began to slew towards the vessel whilst opening the grab, forgetting that he had previously taken a grab full from the hold. Once the cargo started to drop the operator immediately closed the grab, however approximately 10 Ton of Maize had already fallen from a height of around 19 meters which subsequently caused damage to the hopper outrigger.
- No injuries were sustained, however 2 operators were working within the immediate vicinity of the dropped cargo.

## Lessons

- This incident highlights the dangers of suspended loads and the need to always be vigilant and stay well clear of the entire slew path of the crane.
- No aspect of a vessel discharge should commence until all plant and equipment has been set up in position and the full team have confirmed they are ready and safe to start. This should be reflected in relevant task method statements and communicated to staff.
- Loads should only be left suspended for the time required to complete the lift safely. If for any reason a bulk load transfer has to be paused, the load should be suspended in a safe manner e.g. over a stock pile, hold or hopper.
- If there has been any pause in an activity, take the time necessary to ensure you know where you are in the process.
- Although we all want to work as productively and efficiently as we can, safety must always be your **F1rst** consideration.
- Staying focused is essential. If you feel your attention is fading due to tiredness or other factors, **STOP** and speak to your Supervisor immediately.

Issued on behalf of Forth Ports Limited by:  
Health, Safety & Environment Department

Minimum briefing to be ticked:

Management		Supervisors	
Operations		Engineering	
Admin		Marine	
All Employees	✓	Noticeboards	✓

\* Please remove from notice board after 1 month

**SAFETY  
F1RST**

