



Operational Alerts inform Signal Mutual Members of serious incidents within the Mutual that resulted in permanent disability, death, or a significant near miss. If you have similar operations, please share this Operational Alert and have a safety discussion with operation managers, supervisors, equipment operators, and all affected employees. It is imperative that management review their operational controls at all levels to mitigate similar hazardous conditions and/or acts.

INCIDENT: SUSPENDED LOADS AND PINCH POINTS

SUMMARY OF RECENT INCIDENT

Two employees on the dock were tasked with rigging a clamshell bucket to the crane hook. Once complete, they signaled the crane operator to cable up. When the clamshell bucket lifted off the dock, it spun and swung towards the grain hopper leg. The employees grasped the clamshell bucket and attempted to control the spin and swing to prevent it from colliding with the grain hopper leg. The weight and momentum of the clamshell bucket was too great, and one of the employees was momentarily caught between the clamshell bucket and the leg of the hopper. He suffered a broken pelvis and lacerations to his abdomen from the incident.



CONSIDERATIONS

- Use tag lines or push sticks to control suspended loads and to avoid putting your body in the line of fire.
- Stand clear of any raised load and areas where a raised load could fall or swing
- The crane hook should be positioned directly over the load to prevent the load from swinging when it is hoisted.
- Crane operators should plan for boom deflection when making lifts to reduce the amount the object swings when being lifted.
- Employees should be trained and, if required, qualified in rigging operations before performing rigging duties.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR AN EXAMPLE OF AN INDUSTRY - STANDARDS

<https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/cranes-qualified-rigger-factsheet.pdf>

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