

NOTICE No 25**MOBILE CRANE SAFETY**

Figure 1: Groves RT Mobile Crane (Library Picture)

This safety notice has been produced to remind all individuals involved in lifting operations about the paramount importance of safety whilst planning/conducting lifting operations. Recently, there was an incident during transshipment operations on FIPASS, which resulted in a ball hook becoming detached from the hoist rope, causing the ball hook and suspended lifting gear to fall to the deck.

A contributing factor to this particular incident was the lifting gear whilst being lowered to the vessel deck through the hatch was physically pulled, causing the ball hook to come into contact with the hatch coaming and dislodging a safety pin. It must be stressed that manually pulling a suspended load whilst being lowered is not an approved safe system of work.

When working with cranes, falling loads are one of the most common, and most dangerous, hazards. A falling load can result in several injuries, fatalities and significant structural damage to vessels and property. Therefore all personnel involved should be fully aware of the associated risks and in particular the fall zone should always be respected.

Do...

- ✓ Have a safe system of work in place and everyone involved understands
- ✓ Hooks with self-closing safety latches or their equivalent should be used, to prevent gear falling off the hook
- ✓ check the equipment is well maintained and fit to be used, ie appropriate for the job, working properly and all the safety measures are in place;
- ✓ make sure all parts, including attachments, can accommodate the load weight;
- ✓ use the equipment properly and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;
- ✓ make sure employees are wearing the appropriate protective clothing and equipment, required for that machine, such as safety glasses, head protection and safety footwear.

(Ref: HSE Lifting equipment at work, a brief guide, INDG290 (rev1), published 03/13)



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