

Hazard Alert



Oyster Barge Crane Boom

Hazard Summary

An oyster barge operator was killed when the barge's crane boom fell and struck his head. Although the crane was not in operation at the time of the incident, the operator happened to be positioned underneath it when the crane boom failed and spontaneously dropped.

Contributing Factors

While it was a fairly new crane, it had been built without an engineered design. As a result:

- The rod of the cylinder was able to extend beyond the available space
- The high pressure safety valve did not release the pressure once the rod stopped moving
- The design of the crane mast caused restricted movement of the cylinder

These factors caused the piston rod to become overstressed, and it buckled and eventually fractured. In addition, the crane was positioned on the barge so that the operator needed to stand directly under the boom in order to operate the vessel's control panel.

Recommendations

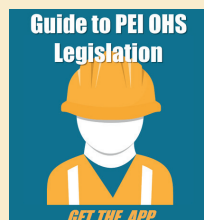
It is recommended that cranes used on oyster barges:

- Be designed using an engineered design
- Be inspected and maintained on a regular basis to verify they are in safe working order
- Be positioned and designed to minimize overhead hazards for workers



Legislated Requirements

Section 12.(1)(b) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* states that an employer shall ensure that any item, device, material, equipment or machinery provided for the use of workers at a workplace is properly maintained, and is properly equipped with the safety features or devices as recommended by the manufacturer or required by the regulations.



To report a serious workplace injury, contact the
24/7 Occupational Health and Safety Emergency Line at 902-628-7513

