

Shared Learning

COSTAIN
The Thameslink Programme

 Issue Date: 8th Feb 2017 - For further info contact sharon.fink@networkrail.co.uk

Issue Number: TLP068
Title: Person Lifted by Tag Line

Overview of Event:

An operative (steelfixer) became entangled in a tag line during a lifting operation on our Construction Site at London Bridge during nightshift works. The load had been unslung and the crane was hoisting up when the tag line got caught around the steelfixer's ankle. He was lifted approximately 2.5m high before the team became aware of the situation. He managed to grab the tag line as he was lighted to remained upright. He was lowered back down and received no injuries.

The works being undertaken were to fix reinforcement steel to culvert structures. Tower Crane 4 was supplying the rebar for the works. A steel fixing gang and a slinger-signaller were involved in the activity.

General Key Messages:

- Only trained operatives should be involved in slinging / signalling tasks
- Slinger / Signallers: are responsible for slinging / unslinging loads and must satisfy themselves that it is safe to instruct operators to lift
- Operatives must make sure that they are clear of loads / tag lines during lifting operations
- Areas being used to land / store materials must be sufficiently clear to allow safe working

Actions Taken As a Result of the Investigations:

- All persons on site briefed that lifting of loads is a specialist activity (Costain are developing a specific briefing to educate people involved with helping out slinger-signallers)
- All crane supervisor and slinger-signallers had a competence assessment undertaken by their respective employers/ supervisor
- Formal lift team meeting to be established with rotating attendance by personnel
- Increased surveillance by Crane Supervisors and other "grey hat" supervision
- Review behaviour/culture of persons including general supervision and enforcement of rules
- Review planning of works and review of logistics, in particular just in time delivery. Only delivered what can be fixed in the same shift.
- Lifting Compliance Check Sheet to be used; this embedment/key learning from this incident is prompted on the form.

Causes:

Immediate Cause – The tag line became wrapped around the steelfixer's ankle.

Underlying Causes –

- Procedure – the steelfixer was not trained in carrying out slinger-signaller tasks. The load had not been landed correctly due to number and placement of timber bites resulting in chains becoming trapped.
- Training / Communication – the slinger-signaller was routinely turning away from the chains once the load was removed. This had been observed by the crane driver but not reported.
- Supervision – the steelfixer supervisor permitted the steelfixer to remove the chains.
- Housekeeping – there was a significant amount of rebar in one area. Crane was operating at its maximum radius resulting in rebar being landed partly on top of another which contributed to chains being snagged.

Photo of Event :

