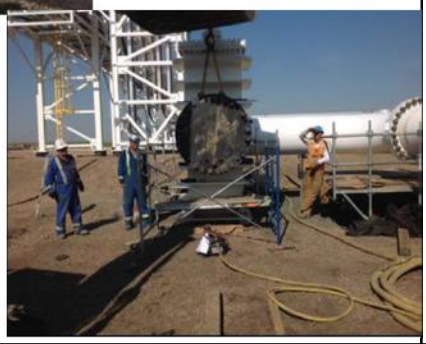
Learning From Incidents

Dropped Flange Due to Sling Failure

Brief Description of the Incident

- Using an excavator and two nylon slings the crew started to removed a 1700 kg flange.
- After being pushed through the flange bolt holes to create a basket configuration, the slings became exposed to the unprotected sharp edges of the flange.
- As the load was raised the slings were severed. The flange dropped to ground, damaging the platform planks and a side brace before coming to rest.



Consider and Discuss the Following Latencies

Managers and Supervisors

- Prior to assigning tasks are we assessing our crews training needs?
- Are we vigilant in migrating our crews to using industry best practices?
- Are we performance managing our crews to ensure effective use of our hazard assessment tools?

Crew Members

- Do I recognize when I am assigned an unfamiliar task? Do I then understand the importance of identifying potential hazards associated with that unfamiliar task?
- Do I ask my supervisor for additional tools, equipment and training to improve the safe execution of your work?
- Do I integrate either the "Stop and Think" process, or a last minute risk assessment, into my daily routine?

Direct Causes

- **Improper rigging**: The nylon sling was not protected from the sharp edges on the flange bolt holes.

Underlying Causes and Contributing Factors

- **Inadequate initial training**: Crew members did not receive proper rigging instruction.
- **Inadequate assessment of needs and risks**: Crew did not identify and adequately protect against the potential hazards associated with the use of slings directly on sharp edges without softeners.

Key Learning Points

1. **Provide training on proper rigging and hoisting techniques for those involved lifting operations.**
2. **Use purpose built rigging equipment (ex. flange lifters) when hoisting flanges.**
3. **Where purpose built rigging does not exist, make use of an engineered sling protector where sharp edges exist.**

Category: Lifting Operations (Onshore)

Contact Ledcor HSE for more details