

OSHE-ALERT 2021-08

Place: Denmark

Date: 29/09/2021

Victims & damage:

- Injury.
- No material damage.

Nature:

Falling down of a steel beam.

Activity:

Loosening of steel beams from sheet piling pit.

Description of the incident:

During dismantling the sheet piling pit, two steel beams had to be separated using an acetylene torch.

The two steel beams were lying on top of each other.

Beam 1 lay on beam 2, beam 1 was secured by a hoisting chain attached to a lifting machine for easy removing after burning off beam 2 (which lay on two supports).

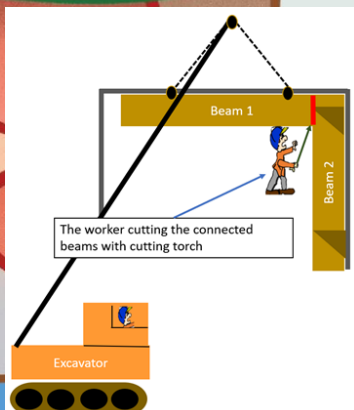
A small part still had to be cut. Therefore, the operator of the excavator lifted beam 1 to see if the beams were already loose.

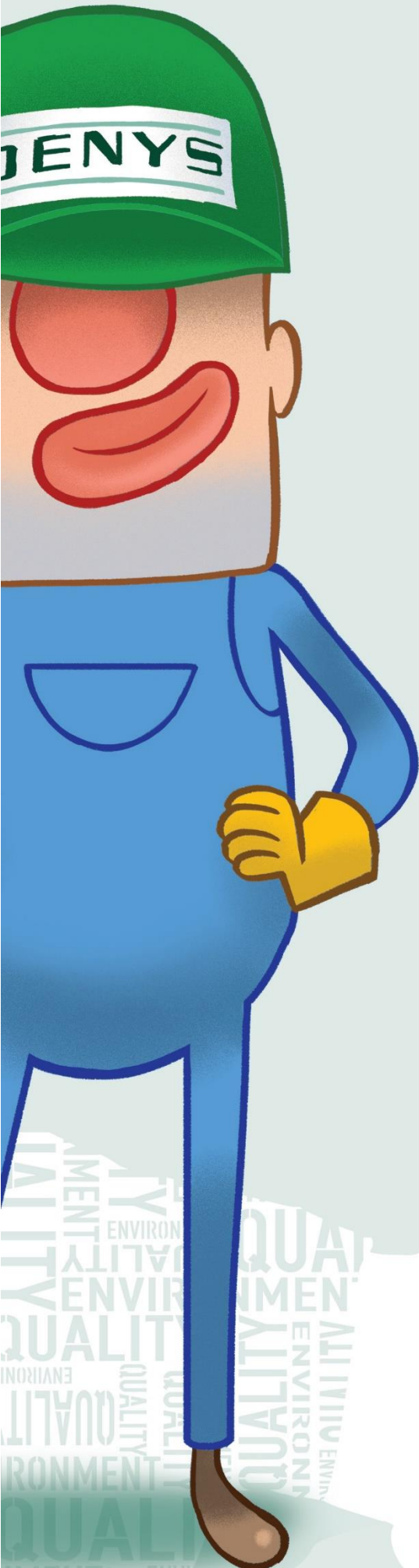
As the beams are not loose yet, the operator put beam 2 back BUT not completely on the support.

Then the last piece is cut, beam 2 is tipping downwards and hits the worker (resulting in scrapes).

Risks:

- Crushing of person
- Falling of load (on a person)
- Instability





Causes:

- No verification that beam 2 is resting securely on the supports.
- No securing of beam 2 by a lifting machine.
- Not aware that a hanging beam always pulls/moves a little in relation to the fixed construction.

Measures / advice:

- Never check whether a load (here beam) is loose by hoisting it.
- Drawing up and following a detailed work plan, for the dismantling (incl. associated hoisting plan).
- Securing the load and the construction before starting the work.
- LSR: I never work under a suspended load.