

Safety Flash

Incident with property damage

Incident: A subcontractor and crane supplier reconfigured an onsite crane for a 2-line lift by removing boom sections and adding a second line. A post-assembly inspection was completed and documented. The next day, the operator inspected the crane and hooked rigging to pick a precast concrete panel. As the operator began hoisting the cable, the wedge and cable pulled through the socket attaching the end of the cable to the boom. The 1,626-pound block fell, damaging the panel. There were no injuries.

Possible Contributing Factors:

- Even though the wedge and socket were labeled for 7/8-inch cable, the pieces did not match.
- Multiple models of socket and wedge assemblies for the same size cable were stored on the crane, but matching socket/wedge assemblies were not secured as a set.
- The assembly crew did not realize that components of different model wedge/socket assemblies for the same size cable were not interchangeable.

Primary contributing factor:

The assembly crew did not realize that components of different model wedge/socket assemblies for the same size cable were not interchangeable.

Possible solutions:

- Make sure matching wedge/socket assemblies are clearly identified and stored/secured together as a set.
- Consider posting a sign on the crane about proper wedge/socket assembly.
- Communicate to operators and mechanics the importance of verifying that wedge and socket pieces match during assembly.

Action plan:

- The crane supplier began identifying matched sets of wedges and sockets, and ensuring they are stored as matched sets the day after the incident, and will recommend that all branch offices implement this program.
- The crane supplier and subcontractor will send a companywide email notifying all employees of the incident, solutions and action plan by February 15, 2019.
- RLI will share this Safety Flash with all crane suppliers and subcontractors that use cranes on our projects.
- The crane supplier is developing a sign to post on each crane, reminding workers to ensure the use of matching wedges and sockets.

Keep improving

Your health and safety are our core value on every project. If you see a way we can support you in keeping our job sites safe, see your supervisor or contact: Jim Philo, 419/654-2043; Rich Franklin, Michigan, 734/679-7283; Alan Doane, Cleveland, 440/429-0639; Rick Wallace, Lima, 419/705-9170 or Mark Hoffman, 419/360-9280.



The crane block



Wedge and socket



Different sizes of wedges