

# Safety Flash

## Near Miss Incident

Date of Incident: 11/22/2019

### The Incident

When the crew attempted to set a column, the choker failed and the column fell approximately 20 to 30 feet to the ground below.

### The Causes

- The choker might have rubbed on the column's sharp edges, which could have cut the strands of the choker and caused it to fail.
- The weight of the column listed on the column's tag was different from the weight shown on the prints.
- The choker rating decreases when used this way to set columns.

### Prevent It

- Grind the sharp edges from the columns that need to be rigged in this manner and use bridge clamps to prevent the rigging from sliding on the column's edges.
- On columns where alternate rigging methods allow, use shackles with an additional choker.
- Ensure that the rigging's choke points are not directly on the corner of what is being rigged.

### Action Plan

- Foremen will share the preventative measures with all rigging crews.
- Alternate methods to place columns will be investigated and the findings will be shared in two weeks.

### Keep Improving

Your health and safety are the most important part of every project. We need *your* help to eliminate unsafe behaviors and conditions. If you see a safer and better way to do a task, see your supervisor, or contact GEM Safety: Bill Cornett – 419-720-2728. To get personal protection equipment from the warehouse, call 419-720-2688.