



SAFETY ALERT Near Miss Incident

ZH Alert No: 0001WTE

Date of Issue: 10/02/2011

What happened:

A near miss occurred whilst an apprentice was operating an overhead crane. One overhead crane had a large piece of steel suspended from it whilst other employee's worked on it. The 1300apprentice employee was operating another crane and slammed a large sheet of steel into the other piece causing a near fatal crush injury to other employees.



Figure 1 Limit switch controlling Proximity Siren



Figure 2 Crane involved in incident

Why did it happen?

The apprentice showed a lack of spatial awareness whilst operating the crane. The apprentice should have been taking note of how close the piece of metal was to the other metal and employees. The proximity siren appeared to be not working at the time of the incident. This would have made the apprentice more aware of the other crane.

Contributing Factors:

- The spatial awareness of the employee
- The proximity siren not operating correctly on the crane
- Procedures of the crane not being followed
- No pre operational check being completed at the beginning of shift

Corrective Actions Required:

- All personnel informed of the incident
- Repair the faulty equipment on the proximity sensor
- All personnel retrained on the correct operating procedure of the crane
- A pre operation check completed at the beginning of each shift with a checklist to keep record of the pre operation check. This should be signed off by the factory floor supervisor.

Key Learning's:

This event highlights the importance of pre operational checks within the correct operating procedures of any equipment.

Concentration when operating any type of plant or machinery is essential. If you are disrupted during the task stop what you are doing and start again.

Remember to STOP THINK ACT REVIEW (STAR) prior to the commencement of any Activity