INCIDENT SHARING

30-Ton Mobile Crane Falls Over at BRCP; Contractor Recordable LTI

Location: Baton Rouge Chemical Plant / Vistalon Downtime / RLA-3

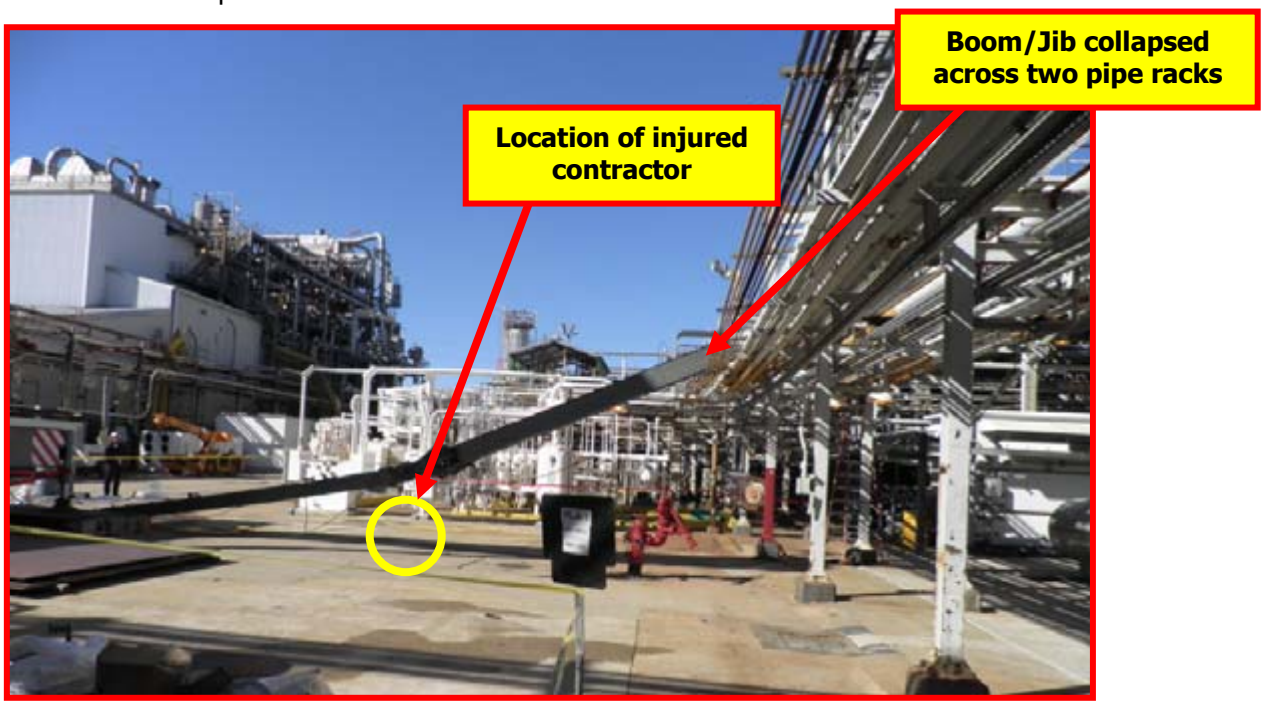
Date / Time: November 4, 2010 - 2:30 PM

Classification: Contractor Lost Time Injury

Primary Cause Of Incident: Crane operator did not comply with crane manufacturer's instructions; risk analysis and risk acceptance less than adequate.

Summary:

A crew was completing a pipe-demolishing job for the day and was demobilizing the 30-ton mobile crane that had been used to support the work. The crane operator retracted all four outriggers to allow workers to pick up the crane mats as the boom/jib assembly (~120-ft) was retracted. As the operator began boom retraction, the crane began to tilt and fell over. The boom/jib collapsed across two pipe racks, struck and injured a worker from the same crew who was working in an adjacent area. Emergency response was initiated immediately and the contractor was transported off-site for medical treatment. The immediate integrity of the pipe racks was not compromised and there was no release or environmental event associated with the incident.



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Investigation Team Findings:

- Crane was stationary (not rolling) when the incident occurred and was not lifting a load.
- Weather was clear and sunny with 12 mph wind (avg.) and gust 20-24 mph at time of incident.
- Crane manufacturer allows boom extension of 60-ft with no jib when on rubber (tires only) without outriggers.
- Crane manufacturer note on load chart: "On-rubber lifting with boom extensions (jibs) not permitted."
- Crane has no interlocks to prevent outriggers from being retracted with boom extended (typical crane design).
- Crane operator is fully compliant with required training (NCCER, Contractor Company, ExxonMobil Motorized).
- Crane operator completed ExxonMobil crane JSP prior to job noting need for extended outriggers with boom extended, no mention of wind-related concern.

Follow-ups / Recommendations:

- Institute program to better evaluate risk tolerance tendencies of equipment operators and incorporate into contractor screening and placement process.
- Evaluate training requirements for crane support personnel with respect to basic crane operations, including mobilization and demobilization.
- Evaluate setting a minimum experience level for certified crane operators at the site.
- Consider re-instituting the crane audit team to conduct un-announced, spot inspections covering all crane operations on site.

The investigation revealed the worker received a glancing strike to the back of his head/hardhat from a pin on one of the jib sheaves.

When is the last time you checked the condition of -- or replaced your hardhat?

Excerpt from SSS-1020, PPE:
Hardhats are susceptible to damage from Ultraviolet (UV) light, chemicals, and abuse. Periodic examinations should be made of all safety hats to check for chalking (loss of surface gloss), cracking, chips, or other visible damage (including an inspection of the suspension). If any defects are found, discard and replace the hat immediately. Hardhats must be replaced when damage / defects are found. Additionally, as a general rule, hardhats should be replaced every 5 years. The hardhat manufactured date is on the inside shell of the hardhat brim.

Manager's Corner:

"This incident reinforces the importance of following good basic safety procedures/systems 100% of the time. The person operating this crane was in the process of demobilizing the crane, an activity I am sure he had done many times before. All of us do routine tasks every day, but routine tasks can still get people hurt. That is because we get complacent and feel that because we've done it 100's of times before, nothing will happen to us. We can't let this happen in our plant because when complacency sets in -- people get hurt! Don't let it happen to you."

Paul F. Stratford, BR Chemical, Plant Manager