

Safety Flash

Deviation From Work Plan Results in Near Miss Incident



Summary of Event:

On July 7, 2009, a 15-ton Galion hydraulic crane was being positioned for a lift at HF-4 as part of the NRD project. The crane operator deviated from the established work plan when he decided to position the crane without the assistance of the designated spotter. In so doing, the right front tire of the crane struck a curb resulting in the swinging of the crane boom. The boom consequently struck a scaffold ladder at approximately 12 feet from grade. Three individuals were on the scaffold at the time of impact, but all were uninjured and were able to safely exit the scaffold structure.

Preliminary Findings:

- Upon striking the ladder, the operator shut the crane off immediately and reported the incident to his supervisor.
- The incident resulted in damage to the scaffold ladder.
- JHA noted that spotter was needed when moving the crane.

Take-Away:

- This incident is similar to an incident that occurred last month where a JLG operator struck a process line. In that incident, *"JHA noted that spotter was needed when moving the JLG. Practice on the job was different as JLG operator did not use a spotter for each movement."* **Always follow the work plan!** If things change, **STOP**, RE-EVALUATE, and RE-WORK THE PLAN!