

Toolbox Lifting Incidents

Davit Crane

Falling Chain

Hoists.

What Happened?

Technicians were operating a davit crane hoist on a wind turbine transition piece (TP) when, after lowering their bags to a crew transfer vessel (CTV) and reeling in the hoist, the chain unexpectedly slipped from its bag. One technician tried to grab the greasy chain while the other rotated the crane toward the TP, but the heavy chain fell from a height of 10–15 metres to the CTV. The deck crew were unharmed.



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How it Happened?

The chain hoist design was not inherently safe, as it allowed the chain to fall out of the bag under certain conditions. With no load applied, technicians were unaware of the risks related to being near the drop zone, and they also lacked awareness of the hazards involved in attempting to grab a falling chain.



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Why it Happened?

It is critical to strictly follow procedures on CTVs to prevent anyone from being in the line of fire. A thorough review of chain hoist designs should be carried out to assess their inherent safety and determine necessary actions. Operators of davit cranes must be fully aware of line of fire risks, and personnel should be reminded of the dangers grabbing falling chains.



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What Can we Ask?

What are the potential hazards associated with attempting to grab falling chains?

What procedures do you follow when reeling in the chain hoist without any load, and what are the potential risks associated with this type of operation?

How can you ensure that your chain hoist designs are fit for purpose, and what additional measures can you take to enhance safety?

How robust are the controls/mitigations on your asset/business for safe lifting and hoisting, and how do you know they're working?

