

SQE ALERT

SQE Alert No:
JHG-13-13
Date of Issue:
03/10/13

Description of Event:

A John Holland worker was struck by a 5.5m, 660kg girder that fell in an uncontrolled manner from a supplier truck. The contractor was using a Vehicle Loading Crane to transfer girders to a transport truck for on-forwarding to Tamworth. The worker who was operating in the capacity of a dogman for the unloading activity sustained multiple fractures to his right leg and a fracture to his right shoulder.

The contractor was attempting to lift two 9m girders (load) from the supplier truck to the transport vehicle. The girders were lifted from one end to separate the load from other items on the truck and to assist the slinging of the load (lifting from both ends). The load was initially moved past the edge of the truck and brought back to a position that the contractor thought was stable, but was balanced on the edge of the trailer. As the injured worker approached the trailer to retrieve the lifting chain for the contractor to reeve the load, the chain became jammed between the load and an adjacent girder. The chain was moved to free it, which combined with the movement of the trailer, released enough energy to cause both 9m girders to fall from the trailer. As the girders fell, the end of the 2nd girder struck a third girder that was positioned adjacent on the trailer, causing it to also fall off the trailer striking the injured worker.



Figure 1: Incident Scene

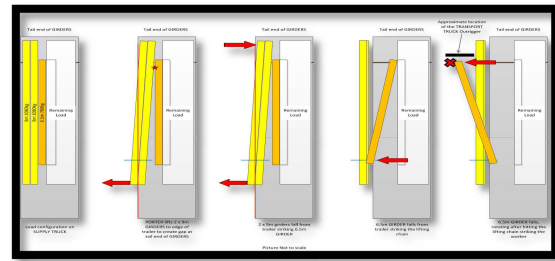


Figure 2: Load movement break down

Direct Cause(s) of Event/Issue:

- There was no load restraint device fitted to the trailer to prevent the load from moving once the load restraint chains were removed.
- Due to its park up location, the supplier truck deck was at an angle (to the horizontal) of approximately 5 to 10 degrees with the low side of the trailer deck towards the transport truck.
- The load was positioned off the edge of the trailer while being prepared to be lifted creating a pivot point.
- Energy was generated by the activities on the trailer to cause the girder to fall.

Corrective/Preventative Actions and or Outcomes:

- All lifts must be planned to ensure that an appropriate method is identified, communicated and applied.
- Planning to be undertaken to avoid double handling of material deliveries to reduce exposure.
- Load restraint supports should be in place for flat-bed trucks to prevent materials from sliding off the vehicle (including contractor and supplier vehicles) before chains/restraints are removed for the purposes of unloading.
- Workers engaged in lifting operations must be verified as competent prior to undertaking lifting activities.
- Ground conditions must be assessed with appropriate controls implemented to ensure the stability of the lifting device, including setup on a level surface.
- Physical barriers and/or other suitable controls must be used to exclude unauthorised persons from lifting operations.

Raised by:
Paul Olive
Approved by:
Peter Clements

This SQE Alert Form is to be posted on all workplace notice boards and used by Supervisors as a subject for discussion at a "Toolbox Meeting".

Please Distribute to all Workplaces

This alert should be removed from Notice Boards by: 02/11/13



SQE ALERT – FOLLOW UP FORM

SQE Alert No:	JHG-13-13	Date of Issue:	03/10/13
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Please analyse & communicate the above SQE alert to your workplace, complete the below form and file on site for future auditing purposes.

1. What date was this SQE Alert communicated to workplace: _____

2. Could this event occur in your area of responsibility at your project?
(Circle your Answer below)

YES - (Answer: Question 3, 4, & 5)
NO - (Answer: Question 6)

3. What control measures do you currently have in place that would eliminate the potential for an occurrence of this type (or similar) on your project?

4. Are these control measures sufficient to prevent or mitigate the risk of an Event of this type (or similar) described in the SQE Alert from occurring?
(Circle your Answer below)

YES or NO

5. If you have answered No to Question 4, please raise an Action Record listing the required actions and accountabilities and record the action number below

Action Record Number: _____

6. Please note the reasons why this event could not occur within your project?

Project Name:	<input type="text"/>	Date:	<input type="text"/>
Workplace Manager Name:	<input type="text"/>	Signature:	<input type="text"/>