

Leg Injury - Gantry Crane Traction Motor Contact

Description of Incident (January 28, 2025)

The gantry crane on an offshore production facility was moving East to land a 7" production tubing string in the pipe deck when a worker's leg was contacted by the traction motor rail protector and compressed against a track bracing support. The worker was medevac transferred for further assessment and treatment. The worker was treated for soft tissue injury.

Pre-job planning identified lifting and moving equipment hazards with Red Zones established and communicated.

What Went Wrong

The injured person entered an area that was later determined to be within the moving Red Zone. The crane operator could not see the gantry crane legs while operating the crane and the equipment layout created a 'caught between' hazard that had not been recognized in advance. Causal factors were determined to be related to tools, equipment and work environment; supervisor expectations; and routine (erosion of standards).

Corrective Actions & Recommendations

The following corrective actions were identified and are being implemented:

- Review options to eliminate the pinch point of the gantry crane protector and the track brace and implement appropriate solutions. Review and update current procedures to ensure clarity on Red Zone delineation around crane legs and the pipe deck. Document clear roles and responsibilities for pipe deck operations.
- Drilling contractor leadership held discussions with offshore leadership and front-line supervisors to re-enforce the expectations for resource planning, allocation and stop work direction.
- Review and evaluate potential solutions to address the blind spot in the gantry crane operator cabin.
- Evaluate additional options for management of the moving Red Zone (including examples using radio frequency identification for personnel tracking integrated with Red Zone alarm system and crane-mounted lighting system to establish moving Red Zone).

The operator also recommends that readers consider the following learning questions for error prone situations:

- Have you identified all lifesaving rules and actions and potential hazards or only the obvious ones?
- Are safeguards clearly defined and understood by all? Do you STOP work and conduct a last minute risk assessment when a trigger occurs?

Applicable Lifesaving Rule

IOGP's [Bypassing Safety Controls](#) lifesaving rule is applicable to this incident.

Posted on September 5, 2025.

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Related Images



Fig. 1. Gantry Crane and Pipe Deck



Fig. 2. Reenactment of contact point