

Near Miss – Light Post Installation

Description of Incident (June 11, 2025)

A work crew were installing a light pole on the upper deck of an offshore platform. As the pole was being maneuvered to line up the bolt holes, both slings failed simultaneously causing the pole to shift, resulting in the pole resting against the upper rail of the scaffold in place for this job. Two workers held the tagline helping to stabilize the light pole on the impacted scaffold rail. One bolt had been installed and it helped keep the light pole base in position. Nobody was injured during the incident.

What Went Wrong

The crane overpulled on the wire rope slings used to lift and position the light pole resulting in both slings failing simultaneously. The selected rigging arrangement was certified and had sufficient capacity for lift. Using the pedestal crane to lift a light pole and maneuver it into place to bolt it to the platform structure, should have been recognized as a non-routine task. A lift plan checklist was not completed for this individual scope of installing the light pole.

The work team consisted of two cross functional departments and all workers involved had the required training and competencies for the work activities assigned per their role-based training roadmaps.

Root causes of the incident were identified as:

- Human Performance Difficulty – Management Systems – Work pack needs improvement
- Human Performance Difficulty – Work Direction – Walkthrough needs improvement

Corrective Actions & Recommendations

The following corrective actions were identified and are being implemented:

- Communicate expectations of Rigging and Lifting Safe Work Practice all affected contractors involved in planning and developing work scopes onshore.
- Determine if enhancements are needed to engineering/construction contractors implementation process to improve identification of non-routine lifting activities, need for lifting eyes and/or lifting plans.
- Define parameters for use of permit for routine lifts then update documentation and communicate expectations.

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

- Has the work pack provided sufficient detail to safely execute the work?
- Have you identified all life saving rules and actions and potential hazards or only the obvious ones?

- Are you triggered by changes, differences or abnormal conditions even for slight variations? Do you STOP work and conduct a last minute risk assessment when a trigger occurs?

Applicable Lifesaving Rule

IOGP's [Safe Mechanical Lifting](#) lifesaving rule is applicable to this incident.

Posted on September 5, 2025.

[Read more](#) Atlantic Canada Offshore Safety Alerts.

Related Image



Fig. 1. Position of Light Pole and Scaffolding

- 1. Light Pole Leaning against scaffold when slings failed*
- 2. Light Pole in Final Installed Position*
- 3. Position of worker on scaffold platform*