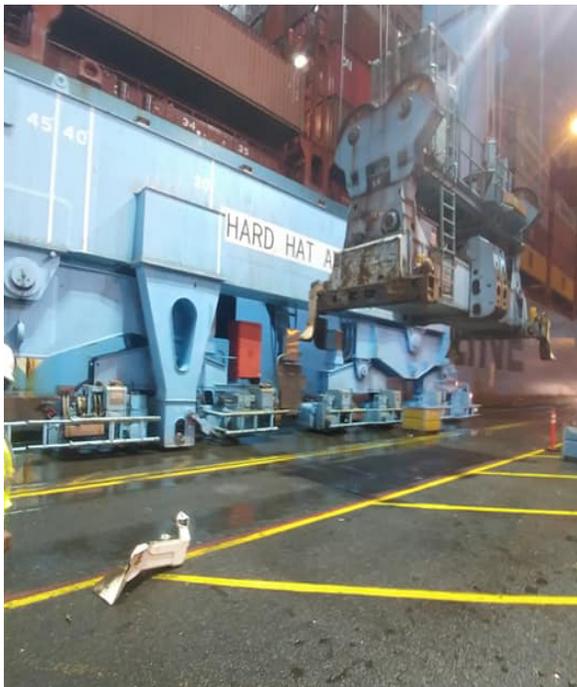




ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH ALERT 2018-07 [06 November 2018]

Guarding Against “Flying Flippers”



Conscientious condition and maintenance checks should typically provide enough insulation to effectively guard against the obviously dangerous container spreader flipper “free-fall”, an example of which is shown in the photograph *above left*.

Over the last few years, however, the ILA-USMX Joint Safety Committee has been made aware of at least five such flipper “free-falls” occurring worldwide. Frankly, each of these reports are very disturbing. Our view, is that frequent and competent checks of all critical crane components are both a regulatory necessity and an imperative in assuring the proper care and husbandry of the industry’s capital and human resources.

In accounting for worst case scenarios, however, a narrow gauge wire rope preventer (an example of which is shown in the photograph *above right*) rigged between the base of each flipper and the spreader’s frame (taking care not to foul any necessary mechanical movement) will limit the drop of any flipper becoming unshipped; for any reason.

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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