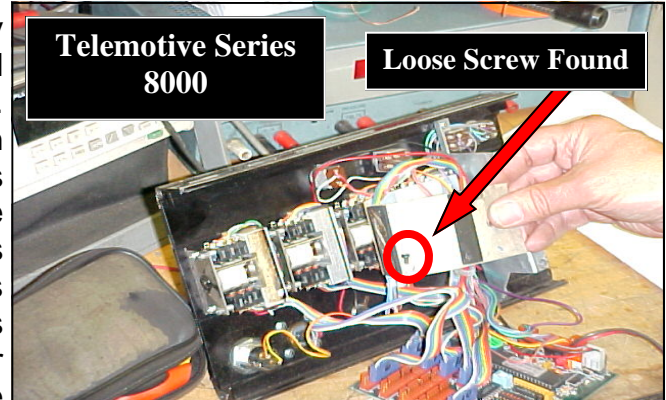




HAZARD ALERT

Fatal Accident Involving a Remote Control Operated Overhead Crane

A USW member was fatally injured when he was crushed while saving a coworker's life. The victim was working in conjunction with two co-workers at the time of the accident. The three workers were in the process of changing the two stacked rolls of a Temper Mill. The top roll was rigged to an overhead crane for repositioning when the crane operator yelled to his two coworkers that he could not control the movement of the crane. As the crane moved the 28,000 lbs roll/chocks toward a worker by the rigged end, the victim shouted a warning to him and then approached and pushed him hard from the roll's path. The victim turned, but before he could reach safety, the unsecured end of the roll dropped pinning him to the floor. The crane was found to be in normal operating condition. However, the Telemotive Series 8000 remote control box was found to have one very small screw (from the internal design of the box) that had worked its way free and eventually adhered to the sticky backing of the Mylar/Velcro strip that is placed over the micro-switches that operate the crane. The small screw was located directly against the component of the switch that controls the eastward traverse of the crane which prevented the crane from stopping once activated. The crane operator stopped the crane by deactivating the box; turning the key to the "off" position.



Recommendations to Prevent Recurrence:

- Inventory all remote control boxes (including spares) for the same or similar condition and remove from service as warranted.
- Contact the manufacturer regarding their design changes or replacement box and a periodic inspection program for crane boxes.
- Where remote cranes are used, the remote box design must include a safety switch that assures the crane cannot be activated unless two-hands are in contact with the box and has adequate guarding that prevents inadvertent activation of the control switches.
- Develop comprehensive procedures on rigging and moving loads, including egress, with overhead cranes and effectively train workers on the procedures.
- Implement a comprehensive crane inspection program and procedure and control the hazards identified.



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The information provided in this alert is based on preliminary data only and does not represent final determinations pertaining to the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of this event.