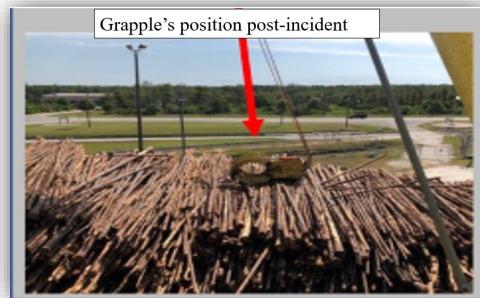




Log Crane Accident Causes Double Leg Amputation

A USW member suffered a double amputation of the legs when a hoist brake on a log crane malfunctioned. The victim and a supervisor were located on the working platform addressing issues that had arose during the course of the day regarding brake failure. During this time the brake malfunctioned again, the crane's grapple slowly dropped and landed onto a pile of logs, coming to rest in a vertical position. At the same time, the cable continued to unspool from the reel drum (backlashed), onto the working platform. The member was standing on the working platform re-spooling the cable into the reel drum when the grapple fell over on its side, causing the excess cable to quickly retract against the reel drum. The victim's feet were caught by the unspooled cable and pulled in against the reel drum causing the double leg amputation. The accident analysis revealed that one out of five controls was engineering, the rest were administrative and none of them functioned properly.



Recommendations:

- Conduct a pre-job hazard assessment performed by a team of union designated employees and management.
- Once hazards have been identified, apply the most effective hierarchy of controls to be used when addressing the hazards.
- When primary control systems are in place, to prevent accidents, apply secondary or redundancy controls, for example: secondary brake system, use of a mobile crane to secure the grapple from falling over, etc.
- Conduct frequent audits and inspections to ensure all safety controls are operational and in good working condition.
- Employees and their representatives' engagement is paramount when designing effective safety processes and procedures, including: right-to-act, lockout-tagout-verify, management of change, and management of organizational change, etc.
- Adjustments and repairs must be done only by designated, adequately trained and experienced personnel.

This hazard alert is based on an actual incident, and reflects our best understanding of the incident at the time it was written. However, many incidents have multiple causes; this alert may not cover all of them. The purpose of the alert is to illustrate workplace hazards; it is not intended to be a comprehensive report on the incident.