

Miscellaneous Accidents

CraneWorks – November/December 1999

Robards, Ky. – A crane was involved in the unsuccessful attempt to rescue two workers at a chicken processing plant. One worker slipped and fell into a slimy pit filled 8 to 9 feet deep with unprocessed chicken parts, which were to be used in animal feed. A crane was used to lower a second worker over the pit, which is a contaminated area. The second worker, who may have been overcome by methane gas fumes, let go of the rope from which he was suspended and fell into the pit. Both workers suffocated.

Morrisville, Pa. – A 20-ton crane was engulfed in a canal during a dredging project. The crane slipped down the canal bank. The canal had not been dredged in about 140 years, and authorities had no idea what was on the bottom. The crane was halfway submerged in the shallow, muddy water. Attempts to remove the crane were unsuccessful. “The tracks of the crane aren’t meant for water,” authorities said. “Once you start dredging, it’s hard to get out of four feet of muck.

CraneWorks – January/February 2000

Stuart, Va. – Two men died while helping to dismantle a silo at a paper mill. They were working from a hood-suspended personnel basket when a fire, which is believed to have started near two wood shaving storage buildings, spread to their work area. They were overcome by the flames almost instantly. OSHA is investigating the cause.

CraneWorks – May/June 2000

Vancouver, British Columbia – A barge-mounted lattice-boom crane being pulled by a tugboat hit a main bridge leading to downtown Vancouver. The accident shifted a middle span of the bridge, sent chlorinated water spewing into the river, and dislodged a gas line from its mooring. After clipping the water line and walkway, the crane apparently dipped into the water, popped back up hitting the west section of the bridge, and then fell from the barge into the water. The bridge suffered structural damage to its expansion joints but no structural damage. An engineer with the provincial highways department said the crane exceeded the height of the bridge by approximately 6 inches. The accident was expected to cause major traffic delays until the bridge could be reopened.

Upper Freehold, N.J. – A man sustained bruised, lacerated, and broken legs and feet when a crane ran over him. The crane was being used to haul concrete walls. The crane operator apparently did not see the man and thought the area where he was standing was clear, officials said. The victim was flown to a hospital by helicopter.

Mount Pleasant, Mich. – A crane being used to demolish an old mill was crushed when part of the building came tumbling down on the machine, smashing it into telephone and power lines. The crane operator said he saw tons of concrete and a tangle of metal rods begin to fall in his direction but jumped from the crane and ran for safety. No one was injured in the accident.

CraneWorks – July/August 2000

Skippers, Va. – A passenger train collided with a semi-trailer hauling a rough-terrain crane. The accident caused a small hazardous chemical spill, and both the crane and truck were totaled. The truck driver got out of the truck after the trailer became stuck on the tracks. He was attempting to get the

truck off the tracks when he saw the train coming. The northbound train hit the truck, sending it into a ditch near the highway. The crane came off the lowboy, flipped, and landed on the opposite side of the track, partially on the track.

The truck driver was not injured. A man riding on the train was treated and released at a local hospital. According to a Virginia state police trooper, the collision cause approximately \$1.5 million in damage. He said the truck and trailer, valued at \$200,000, were totaled, as was the \$350,000 crane.

It took workers several hours to right the crane because they were attempting to keep one lane open for railroad traffic.

According to the county planning director, approximately 20 gallons of diesel fuel and 100 gallons of hydraulic fluid leaked out of the vehicles during the cranes. He said the dangerous chemicals had been contained and there was no runoff from the fuels.

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