

Spate of Crane-related Dangerous Occurrences in First Quarter of 2015



Date of incident: 19 Jan 2015

A crawler crane had just completed a lifting operation at a workplace in Jurong when the crane operator attempted to concurrently move his crane while hoisting up the auxiliary hook at the same time. Without realising that the hook had exceeded its allowable limit, the operator continued hoisting, resulting in the hook hitting the fly jib. The fly jib buckled and was left dangling from the boom tip. No one was injured in the incident.



Date of incident: 24 Feb 2015

A crane operator who was operating a crawler “tower” crane in a Potong Pasir workplace had left the crane’s cabin with its engine still switched on. The fly jib of the crane continued moving upwards and was hauled beyond its limits. This caused the crane to tilt backwards and subsequently collapse. The crane’s boom and a section of the fly jib fell beyond the site hoarding, and landed in the compound of one of the private houses nearby. No one was injured in the incident.



Date of incident: 25 Feb 2015

A mobile crane in a workplace at Pasir Panjang was carrying a man cage with 2 workers when a gantry crane nearby approached the boom of the mobile crane. The mobile crane operator immediately lowered the man cage to allow the workers to get out. One managed to escape uninjured just before the gantry crane collided with the mobile crane’s boom while the other worker sustained minor injuries. The collision left the mobile crane’s boom crane damaged and bent.



Date of incident: 3 Mar 2015

A 50-ton mobile crane in a workplace at Punggol was lifting a dismantled section of a tower crane jib onto a trailer when the crane suddenly started tilting. It collapsed and hit the cabin of another mobile crane next to it. The crane operator of the mobile crane that was hit suffered minor injuries.



Date of incident: 3 Mar 2015

A luffing tower crane operator in a workplace at Marina Way was raising the crane's jib when he suddenly felt an abrupt vibration. He immediately stopped operating the crane. It was later discovered that the jib section was damaged with several deformations found on its main chord. Investigations are currently being carried out to determine the cause of the failure.



Date of incident: 3 Mar 2015

A bulk carrier was used to transfer sand onto a barge which was intended to be transported to a worksite at Jurong Island for the purpose of land reclamation. The luffing wire rope of the crane on the bulk carrier suddenly failed when the operator slewed the crane to refill its grabber with sand. The crane's boom fell on a hatch cover which was within the bulk carrier.



Date of incident: 9 Mar 2015

A mobile crane was deployed at the worksite for a lifting operation to be conducted. The crane operator had positioned the outriggers of the crane and was conducting a check on its maximum working radius. The crane operator extended the boom to almost its maximum length and subsequently lowered the boom when suddenly the crane began to tilt forward and collapsed within the compound of the worksite. No one was injured in the incident.