

FATAL ALERT

On December 29, 2008 a crane operator was fatally injured while disassembling a lattice boom on a truck mounted crane. The crane operator and one coworker were working together to dismantle the truck mounted lattice boom crane in preparation of transport. The crane boom had been lowered horizontally to the ground and was supported by cribbing at the boom point. The victim and his coworker positioned themselves under the elevated boom at the connection point between the base and center section of the boom. The coworker removed the first lower pin and moved out from under the boom. The victim removed the second lower pin of the connection. After dislodging the second lower pin, the boom hinged on the top two pins and fell on the crane operator's lower torso pinning him to the ground. The victim received fatal injuries as a result of the accident.

Significant Factors:

- The operator of the crane had an unknown amount of experience and training in crane operations.
- The operator, unknowingly, placed himself in a dangerous area where he was subjected to collapsing crane components.
- The crane operator and coworker were not familiar with the manufacturer's procedures in disassembling the boom.

Recommendations:

- Brief all employees on the facts and circumstances of this fatal mishap.
- Ensure the manufacturer's recommended procedures for the assembly and disassembly of a boom are properly implemented to prevent the movement of the boom sections.
- Ensure that pre-work safety meetings are conducted each day to discuss the work to be performed, identify the potential safety hazards, and implement safe work procedures to control the hazards.