

Contractor Weight Handling Mishap

Tipped Telehandler



Activity: A Telehandler used in a crane like manner (approved arrangement) was transiting a sloped area with a large formwork panel (22' x 8') suspended vertically. The panel was rigged to a certified lift point on the end of the boom. The tall panel required the operator to extend the boom of the machine in order to clear the ground. According to the Original Equipment Manufacturer's (OEM) Manual, the boom must be fully retracted and raised no more than 45 degrees when traveling with a suspended load. The sloped ground and strong winds contributed to the instability of the telehandler causing it to turn onto its side. The boom landed on a sturdy piece of material preventing the cab from hitting the ground. The operator was wearing his seat belt which kept him in the cab. He was evaluated at the clinic and released back to work with no injuries.



Potential Contributing Causes

- Operator unfamiliar with or unaware of the equipment operating limits
- OEM Manual instructions for hoisting and traveling were not utilized
- Improper rigging (vertical vs. horizontal orientation) of the load
- Significant environmental factors: sloped terrain, high winds

Communication Points

- Operators ***must*** pre-plan all work and walk equipment travel paths to identify and mitigate hazards before starting ***any*** work
- Operators ***must know*** equipment operational tolerances and restrictions in accordance with the OEM Manual
- Activity Hazard Analysis shall include environmental restrictions