Contractor Serious Mishap Fingers Crushed by Outrigger Stabilizer



Outrigger

Stabilizer pad

Area where hand was injured

Injury: Finger compression injury and partial amputation

Activity: Two contractor crane crew members were setting up crane outriggers and stabilizers when one workers prescription spectacles fell from his shirt and rolled directly underneath the stabilizer pad that was slowly moving downward. Perceiving the stabilizer was moving slow enough to retrieve his glasses, he attempted to grab his spectacles using his left hand. Before he could pull his hand out, the stabilizer pad closed the gap between the pad's bottom and the pavement and caught four of his fingers in the process.

Direct Cause:

Failure to avoid the pinch-point hazard

Root Cause:

Inaccurate perception of pad travel and reaction speeds Failure to restrain loose articles near moving equipment

Lessons Learned:

- Operators must insure personnel in the crane's operating envelope are clear prior to crane operation or movement
- Never place oneself or allow others to be in positions where parts of their body may become trapped or pinched between loads, crane components and other objects
- Crane crew must insure clear communication & line of sight to crane operator to signal operation stoppage in case of emergency