# BSEE: Falling corroded crane component results in near miss

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**The United States' Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) has published Safety Alert 511 relating to a near-miss dropped object incident on an offshore platform during the maintenance and inspection of a platform crane.**

**IOGP Life Saving Rules:**

- Bypassing safety controls
- Line of fire

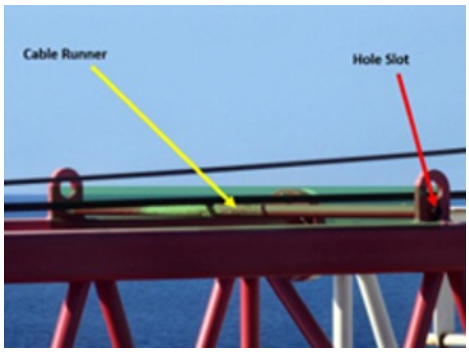
## What happened?

While the crane was undergoing maintenance, a corroded cable runner on the crane's boom separated and fell approximately 16m to deck. The cable runner was approximately 1.7m long, 2.5cm in diameter, and weighed approximately 8 kg. When the cable runner separated and fell, it landed on deck approximately 6m from nearby personnel.

A DROPS calculation (see https://www.dropsonline.org/drops-guidance-and-resources/drops-calculator/) indicates that this dropped object posed a threat of serious injury or fatality.

## What went wrong?

- Corrosion was found to have compromised the integrity of the cable runner, causing it to separate from the crane's boom and fall.




Corroded crane boom cable runner / roller on crane boom.

Area where cable roller / runner landed.

- The crane had been out of service for over three years before the incident. The most recent annual inspection of the crane, conducted in 2022, identified significant corrosion on the crane's boom, including the cable rollers/runners. Before the incident, the operator had failed to carry out the recommended repairs noted in the inspection report.
- During job planning, the team did not identify the crane boom and its components as a hazard. The crane technicians identified only hand tools as

falling-object hazards in the job safety analysis (JSA) and overlooked the need for barricades or warning signs for the task.
- The technicians failed to barricade the area underneath the crane before starting operations, and to prevent personnel from entering the area, given the possibility of dropped objects identified in the JSA.
- During the pre-job assessment, supervision failed to ensure that the area where work was to be performed was properly secured and that no unnecessary personnel entered the area with dropped object risks.

## Lessons suggested

- Take particular care with potential DROPS hazards when dealing with older equipment and equipment, installations and vessels that are being reactivated after a period of inactivity.
- Having identified a DROPS hazard, establish barriers and other controls to minimize the risk to personnel and equipment below.
- Ensure everyone involved is fully aware of the risks and hazards involved in the job and has had the opportunity to provide input on identifying and mitigating any potential hazards present.
- Emphasize increased awareness of aging and/or previously unmaintained equipment during maintenance, inspections or decommissioning.