



ISSUE DATE: 13 Aug 18

SAFETY ALERT

ROCK GRAB FALLS FROM TRAILER

DETAILS

A recent high potential incident involving the uncontrolled movement of a rock grab attachment as it was being unloaded from a semi-trailer has highlighted several risk management shortfalls.

Using a 4t rated forklift with slipper tines fitted, a workshop fitter was in the process of moving the grab from the centre of the trailer to a position closer to the forklift ready for it being lifted off the trailer. At the first attempt to move it, the grab was inadvertently tipped by a forklift tine, rocked off its dunnage and subsequently rolled off the opposite side of the semi-trailer, demolishing a neighbour's fence and landing "half in" their property.

Other important facts are, the delivery semi-trailer was parked closer to the Workshop's boundary fence than normal because of a congested unloading area, the workshop yard (where the semi was parked) has a substantial cross fall towards the boundary fence and the forklift operator's *Licence to Perform High Risk Work* (LF) had expired on the 17 July 2018. There were no injuries resulting from this incident.



IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

Whilst this incident is still under investigation, the list below details immediate actions to be completed by PMs/QMs/Plant Maintenance Manager by COB 15 Aug 18:

- 🏠 Ensure loading/unloading areas are designated and identified on your site's Vehicle/Traffic Management Plan, sufficient space is provided to enable the safe conduct of unloading/loading tasks, areas are delineated, and access controlled.
- 🏠 Ensure work equipment and unloading methodology is appropriate for the task. For example, the task above should have been completed using a mobile crane (FRANNA, etc) or the workshop's own gantry crane.
- 🏠 Conduct a Toolbox Talk with workers:
 - Remind forklift operators of the derating effect of slipper tines – they should refer to the forklifts load chart, if no information is provided for slipper tine use then they must not be fitted.
 - Use the details of this incident to highlight why sufficient, delineated and controlled work areas are essential when managing loading and unloading activities.
 - Remind workers that if they are involved in a task that requires a *Licence to Perform High Risk Work* they must have their licence available for inspection and ensure its date.
 - Remind workers that it is their responsibility to renew their *Licence to Perform High Risk Work* when necessary. SafeWork NSW inspectors can (and regularly do) issue \$720 on the spot fines (Penalty Notices) to workers who are found to be conducting related high-risk work without a licence/expired licence or cannot produce their licence when directed to do so. The company can also be issued a \$3600 Penalty Notice for the same shortfalls.

Issued by: Dean Ellis (Group WHS Manager)

Disclaimer - The information contained in this alert is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing.