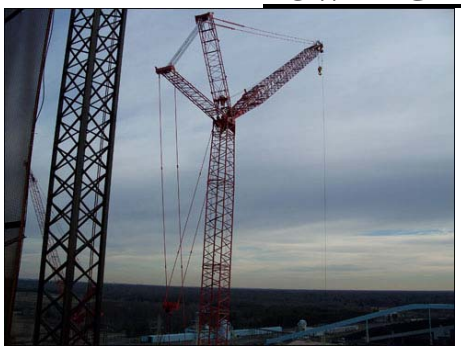
CAMSAFETY CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

SAFETY ALERT # 18

February 26, 2007

In the interest of keeping everyone safe **CAM***SAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.*

TOWER CRANE TOPPLES IN HIGH WINDS



What Happened

A construction crane with a 350-foot boom was apparently blown by high winds onto a building at Consumers Energy's Campbell Complex in Port Sheldon, Michigan. Construction crews are installing new emissions control equipment. Approximately 100 people were inside the building at the time. With the exception of one worker being treated for minor injuries, all were accounted for. Because of the winds the crane was not operational at the time of the accident. There is no word yet on the extent of the damage to the building.

A construction worker at the scene said the crane was experiencing mechanical problems and was not properly anchored when high winds, more than likely, knocked the crane over.

Applicable MIOSHA Standards

R 408.41028a Hammerhead tower crane; operating requirement. Rule 1028a. (2) A hammerhead crane shall not be operated when wind speeds are more than the maximum velocities recommended by the manufacturer.

Prevention

Although the crane was not in operation this accident emphasizes the need for everyone on a construction site to be "in the game" at all times.

General Information

This is a good reminder for contractors with cranes to pull the operator's manual out of the cab and double check the manufacturers operational wind limit cut off for their particular make and model of crane.

An experienced construction crane operator at another jog in downtown Grand Rapids the day of the accident, said the wind was too much. "We're not going to go today. It's just too much. We're going to stay on the ground." "About 35 miles an hour is when I like to draw the limit," Kipken said.

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