



SAFETY ALERT #30



December 21, 2007

In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY 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.

NYLON SLING FAILURE CAUSES ACCIDENT

What Happened

An architect sitting in a job trailer was seriously injured when a 14,000 pound bundle of 25 – 30 foot long metal studs fell from 25 floors up. The bundle, being lifted by a tower crane using a nylon sling, destroyed the trailer the injured worker was in and came apart spreading the studs throughout the area. A company spokesperson said a "material failure that ... could not have been foreseen" may have caused the accident. The sling was designed to carry up to 19,000 pounds. According to www.mydailynews.com the contractor was issued



four violations: practicing unsafe hoisting operations; failure to safeguard the public and property during construction operations; failure to maintain vertical safety netting along the sides of the building, and failure to provide toe boards, which are low barriers designed to prevent falls.

Prevention:

The comment "could not have been foreseen" is a dangerous mind set in construction. It implies that there was nothing that could have been done. Diligent attention to detail may have detected the problem "upstream" from the accident event. By presuming that a particular accident was unpreventable we tend to close our eyes to possible solutions, leading to an incomplete investigation. As stated above that's a dangerous mind set. All accident investigations should be conducted with an eye for the root cause regardless how "preventable" you may think the accident was.



MIOSHA standards require that a sling and all fastenings be inspected for damage and defects by a designated employee before each days use, and, where service conditions warrant, additional inspections shall be performed during sling use. **MIOSHA Part 8 Rule 833** requires that all slings used to store or handle material for construction operations shall meet the requirements of Part 49. (General Industry)