



# Safety Alert

## Counterweight Rigging Incident

April 26, 2018

**Occurrence Date:** April 7, 2018

**Location:** Lickdale, PA

**Hazard Category:** Motion / Gravity

### Brief Description:

- A 9,600 lb. counterweight fell and rolled onto a contractor's legs.
- The injury occurred at a work site while a four person contractor crew used a second side boom to install a counterweight on a side boom.
- The side boom had been recently transported. Counterweights are removed when side booms are transported on roads and re-installed when they arrive at job site.
- The injured worker was freed and transported to hospital for treatment.

### Initial Findings:

- The counterweight lift was rigged by the contractor crew. A lifting strap was used in a basket configuration, with a lifting capacity of 12,800 lb.
- The lifting strap (synthetic web sling) was attached to the counterweight with a shackle.
- Following the incident, the lifting strap was found in two pieces.
- The injured contractor was in the line-of-fire when the load fell.
- A safety latch was not used by the contracting crew on the hook of the side boom performing the lift.



### Call to Action:

- Conduct thorough inspections on rigging equipment before use and maintain lifting straps at all times. Out of service or damaged rigging should be tagged and destroyed.
- Ensure rigging configuration protects straps from sharp or abrasive edges.
- Use tag lines or push poles if there is a need to position a suspended load. Avoid being in the line-of-fire.
- Use of safety latches on lifting hooks are required for overhead lifting and rigging operations, except when using a side boom to lower pipe into an excavation.