CICA – Vic / Tas Branch
Crane Safety Bulletin
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Greetings all.

Today's topic is **pinning of outrigger beams**.

Many cranes require outrigger beams to be physically pinned when in the extended position. Often, this pinning is overlooked or thought not required.

When manufacturers design their cranes and they have supplied these pins to be fitted, it is for a reason and they must be used.

The outrigger beams may be extended hydraulically, but the hydraulic cylinders may not be capable of holding the lateral load put on them – and can slide back in - when lifting heavy loads.

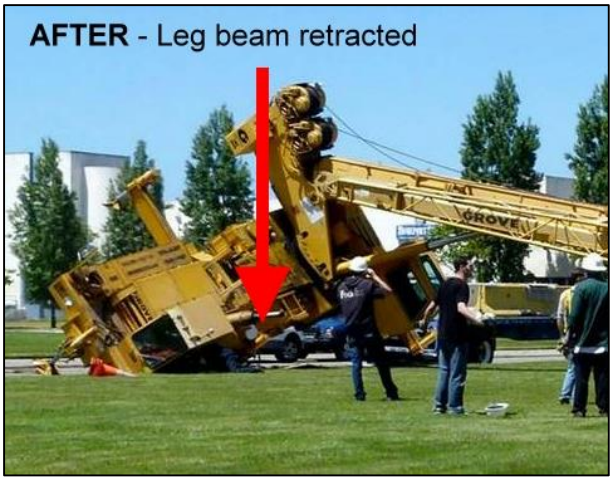
By pinning the beam mechanically, this takes the stress off the cylinder and ensures the leg will not retract unexpectedly during a lift.

There have many accidents where cranes have tipped due to outrigger beams retracting under load.

Locking pins should always be used when supplied.

In the 2 photos that follow, the "before" photo shows the crane is set up with all leg beams extended, but the "after" photo (with the crane tipped) shows that the front left side beam is now retracted. What we can't be sure of - did the crane tip because the leg retracted, or did the leg retract when the crane started to tip?

However, whichever the case, the leg beam was obviously not pinned. If it was, this incident may have been avoided.



If your crane has pins to lock the outrigger extensions, make sure they are always used, as this is what the manufacturer intended for safe use.

And don't forget, if you're not sure what is required on your crane, check the operators manual.

Cheers for this week and stay safe.

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