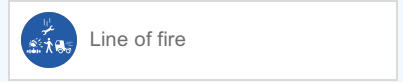


LTI – fingertip pinched by wire sling

Safety Flash Published on 3 October 2023 Generated on 16 January 2025 IMCA SF 23/23

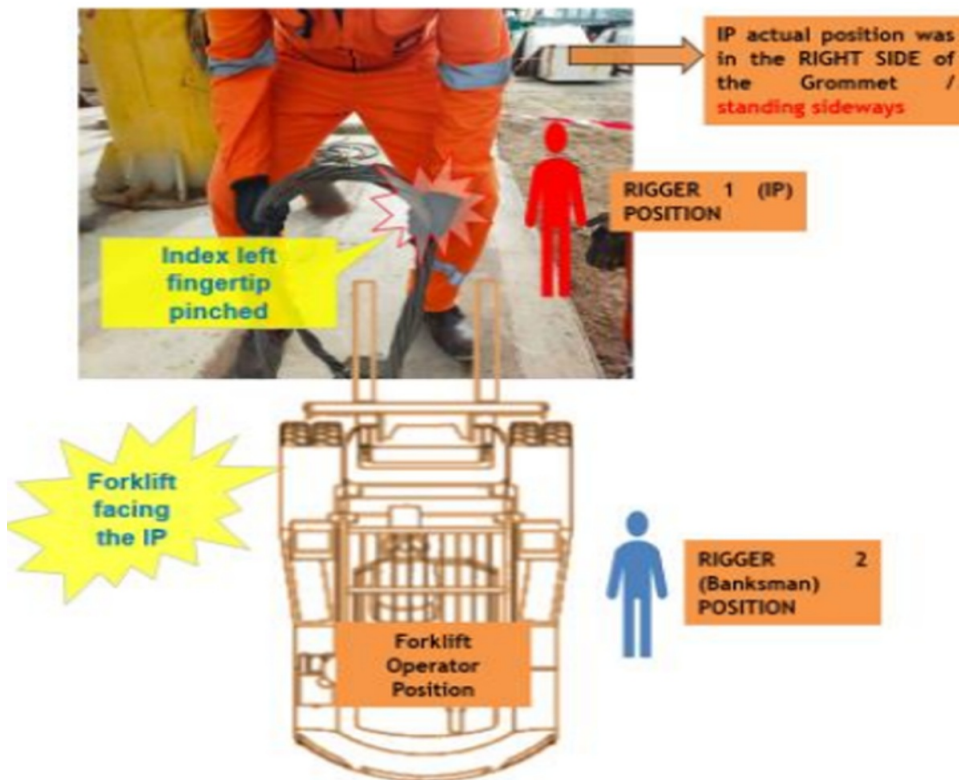
A rigger suffered serious injury when his finger got trapped between a sling and one of the forks of a fork-lift truck.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



What happened?

The incident occurred when the rigger was installing a steel wire sling on one fork of the fork-lift truck in stand-by, and the fork-lift operator started to lift the fork without instruction or alert from the banksman nearby.



What went wrong?

- The experienced fork-lift operator started to lift the fork without any instructions, without any reference to the Banksman who was the person through whom communication ought have been channelled.
- The rigger took no account of the fact that his fingers were IN THE LINE OF FIRE.
- Neither the task nor its risks were suitably assessed by the lifting team.

What were the causes?

Our Member identified the following as causes:

- complacency – the fork-lift operator acted without thinking, based on previous experience
- lack of communication.

Lessons learned

- Always wait on clear instructions or signals from the Banksman during lifting operations, particularly if you don't have a clear overview of the work area.
- Think through where you position yourself – keep out of the line of fire.
- Ensure everyone involved in the task takes part in, and is properly briefed at, a toolbox meeting before starting, and that this meeting covers all the hazards involved.
- Our Member took steps to arrange for this particular task to be done in a different way in order to prevent recurrence.

IMCA Safety Flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing lessons to be more easily learnt for the benefit of the entire offshore industry.

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