

Near miss: Worker in dockyard almost struck by a 'cherry picker' crane

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A Member reports a near miss incident in which a worker was almost hit by a 'cherry picker' mobile crane.

What happened?

Whilst walking to a dry dock, a shipyard visitor was almost struck by the vehicle when it suddenly reversed driving direction.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls



Driving



Line of fire





What went wrong?

Several safeguards were not implemented causing a chain of errors that resulted in a hazardous occurrence:

- The cherry picker operator did not look first before reversing.
- There was inadequate traffic management or separation zones: the pedestrian walkways were not clearly visible as the paint markings had faded away.
- The traffic separation scheme for equipment and pedestrians had been blocked off with the storage of materials.

Our member notes that in some locations, influencing the workplace safety culture of the shipyard can be a significant challenge. Members may wish to refer to IMCA HSS032 – *Guidance on safety in shipyards*.

Lessons learnt / Actions taken

- Further toolbox talks for all equipment operators to address safe work practices.
- All materials blocking the pedestrian walkway were removed.

- Traffic separation scheme marking were refreshed with a new coat of paint.

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