

Safety Alert

08/17/11

Re: Hoist Near Miss Incident.

INCIDENT:

While lifting the Sheeter blade assembly, the monorail hoist suddenly dropped and shifted partially off the rails (photos 1 and 2). Investigation revealed that the control pendant's stress-relief chain had lodged inside of the hook block sprocket. Disassembly of the sprocket and inspection of the area revealed that the stress relief chain had wedged inside the workings of the sprocket (photo 3), causing the incoming chain to slack and then reload. This in turn dropped and shock loaded the unit. The shock load caused the hoist to shift partially off the overhead rail.



Photo 1: Photo shows unit after dropping. The pendant chain can be seen to enter the hook block sprocket.

Photo 2: Close up, showing the pendant chain entering the hook block sprocket.

STRAIN RELIEF

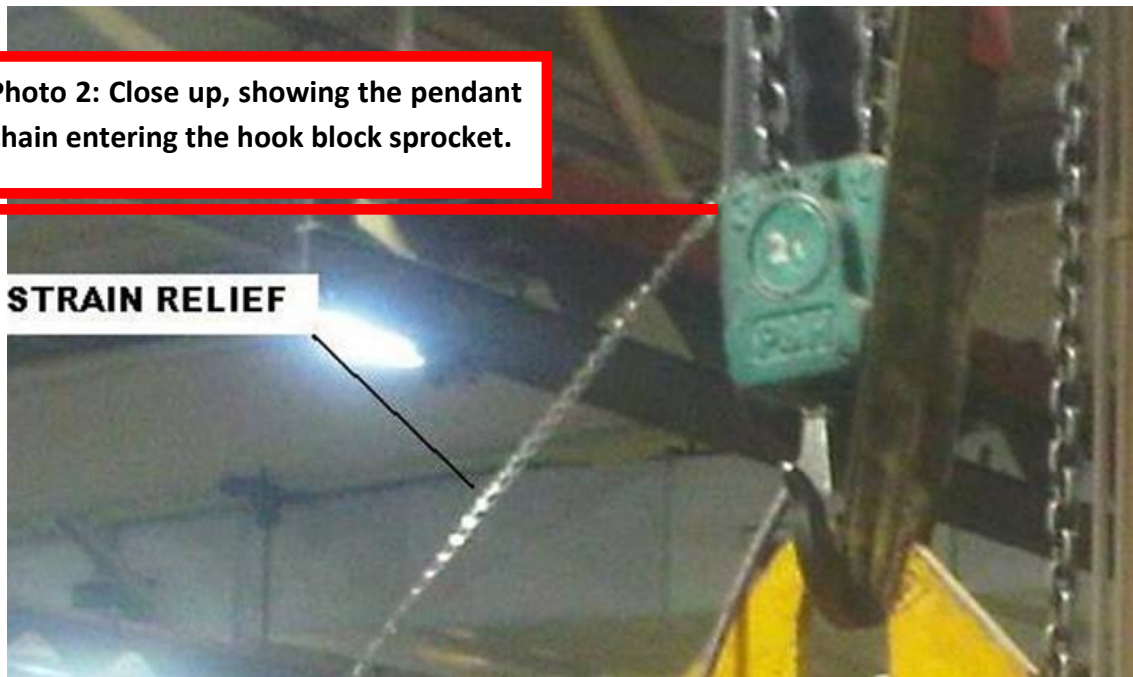


Photo 3: Stress relief chain wedged inside the disassembled hook block sprocket.

RESPONSE:

In response to this incident, the stress-relief chain was replaced with 1/4" coated aircraft cable that cannot enter into the sprocket. In addition, operations personnel were provided refresher training on signs of hoist malfunction, and proper responses. In consideration of this incident, operating areas must review their cranes and hoists for similar control pendant stress-relief chains and, where said chains can enter block sprockets, replace those chains with proper cable.
