Unsafe Positioning and Load Securing During Pole Lift

Date of Issue:	10/09/2026	**HSEQ Alert No:**	HS.03-237.HSHS
Incident Type:	Hazard Observation / Unsafe Work Practice		
Site:	Wairarapa		
Plant Type:	Truck Mounted Crane		

DESCRIPTION OF HAZARD OBSERVATION

During a wooden pole lifting operation, an employee controlling the load was positioned too close to the suspended pole. The tag line being used was too short to allow the worker to remain outside the potential movement and risk area, the pole was wet, increasing the likelihood of slippage and unpredictable movement. The primary concerns related to personnel positioning, tag-line length and securing the pole before disconnecting the crane.

During the lift, it was identified that the tagline required extension, and corrective action was taken immediately. After the lift was completed, the relevant procedures were reviewed onsite, and the task was re-demonstrated using more effective controls to reinforce safe work practices.

LEARNINGS

- Personnel were positioned within the potential movement zone while guiding and securing the load.
- The tag line was not of sufficient length to allow load control from a safe position
- The load was not fully secured before lifting equipment was disconnected.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Use tag lines of sufficient length that allow workers to remain outside the load hazard zone.
- Establish & maintain exclusion zones, keeping personnel clear of any potential load movement path.
- Use approved lifting, rigging, and slinging techniques to ensure the load remains stable and under control throughout the lifting operation
- Keep crane restraint in place until the load is secured and stable.
- Stop & reset the lift if personnel enter the hazard zone, communication is unclear, visibility is lost or the load becomes unstable.

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HSEQ ALERT

SAFETY MESSAGE

A suspended or unsecured load has the potential to cause serious injury or fatality. Always maintain exclusion distances, use tag lines that allow workers to remain clear of the load hazard zone, and secure the pole before disconnecting the crane. If conditions or risks change, stop, reassess the JSEA and reset the lift...

Hazard:



Next day after Safety Stop site training:



WELLBEING

An injury can be distressing not only for the injured but also team members and family. Take a moment to check-in with yourself and each other. ***Remember our support service SONDER is available to all employees and direct family members.***

This HSEQ Alert must be posted on all workplaces notice boards and used by Supervisors as a subject for discussion at Toolbox Meetings.

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL WORKPLACES

ACT SAFE, WORK SAFE, LIVE SAFE