Fatal 6 - Operating close to, or under, suspended loads

WHAT HAPPENED

During the normal operation of a casting bed cleaner, the water tank of the bed cleaner dropped. Examination revealed that this was due to a structural failure of the part that supports the rise and maintains the tank in the raised position. The weight of the raised portion of the machine is roughly 5000 kg when fully loaded with water. Nobody was in the immediate vicinity at the time of the failure. However, when cleaning operations take place, this could potentially cause injury to operatives.



Failed part

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- In this specific incident, the risk has been controlled by installation of locking pins and electronic sensors that monitor if the pin is correctly located in the out position to support the load. In addition to the ram, the pins now support the load when in a raised position.

- The general principle to be applied is to recognise that for any suspended load, whether held by cranes, rams, struts and similar, still has the potential for failure. Therefore, when anyone is required to work underneath or close to these loads, secondary support devices must be utilised.

LOCATION:	**CONCRETE PRODUCTS PLANT**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**LIFTING**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**12/08/2019 12:37:21**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**NO SUB ACTIVITY AVAILABLE**	**INCIDENT No:**	**01522**