Fatal 3 - Operators at risk of fall from height whilst working on roof of cement mill

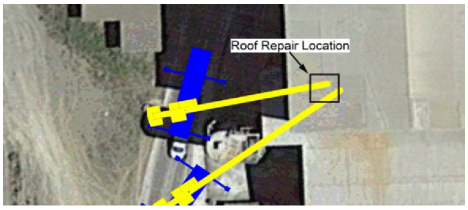
WHAT HAPPENED

During roof repair work on the cement mill building, two contractor operatives were observed working at height. Both were wearing individual safety harnesses and lanyards, but both lanyard systems were connected to the same endless sling safety line. One of the two planned cranes could not reach the required roof corner, so both operatives used the remaining crane. The shared-line arrangement was identified, and the work was stopped immediately. The arrangement was reviewed and corrected before work continued.

A review of the incident identified the following

- Inadequate planning and management control of the work at height activity
- Failure of the planning and management-of-change process to ensure that any deviation from the agreed work-at-height method was stopped, risk assessed and authorised before work continued.

The image below shows the location of the cranes and the area of the roof being worked on.



LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- For crane-supported work at height, verify all work locations against the planned crane positions, radius and access arrangements before work starts.
- Complete a joint pre-start review by the contractor, crane company and a company representative, including fall-protection and rescue arrangements.
- If the planned method cannot be followed because of crane reach, access or other unforeseen conditions, stop the activity, reassess the method and obtain formal approval before continuing.
- Each operative must have an independently suitable fall-protection connection unless the system is specifically designed, certified and approved for simultaneous multiple users.
- Brief relevant contractor and site teams on this event, with emphasis on crane working envelopes, point-of-work changes and maintaining independent fall protection.

LOCATION:	**CEMENT PLANT**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**ACCESS & EGRESS & WORKING AT HEIGHT**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**16/11/2026 16:33:47**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**N/A**	**INCIDENT No:**	**04989**