

**Case 124. 52-year-old shake out man/chain operator for a 50-ton overhead crane was killed when he was struck by a moving 12,000 pound mold and pinned against an adjacent mold, and then thrown to the floor.**

A 52-year-old male shake out man/chain operator (hooker) for a 50-ton overhead crane was killed when he was struck by a moving 12,000 pound mold and pinned against an adjacent mold, and then thrown to the floor. The molds consisted of a top (cope) and a bottom (drag), which were bolted together. Both the cope and the drag had an attachment area called the trunion. The decedent and the overhead crane operator to whom he was assigned had finished shaking out the sand in a 60- x 80-foot mold. After shaking out the sand, the overhead crane operator transported the mold to a holding area. The decedent and another employee unhooked the chains from the mold. The overhead crane operator, without looking at the location of the decedent, began to move the crane to another location to pick up another mold. Two different event scenarios were stated by witnesses: (1) As the crane operator moved to the west, he had to move his chain around a jib crane. He was raising his chain when the chain caught the cope trunion of an 80- x 100-foot mold. The decedent was following the chain and when the crane operator inadvertently hooked to the trunion, the decedent tried to remove the chain. (2) The decedent took the overhead crane chains and headed west. As the decedent was walking with the chain, he hooked it up to the cope of an 80- x 100-foot mold and kept walking to the other side of the mold to hook the other chain to the cope. Under this scenario, the decedent did not notify the crane operator that he had attached the chain to the cope of the mold. In each scenario, the crane operator was not aware of the decedent's location or activity; he looked in the direction of the mold he was going to pick up. Additionally, the overhead crane operator did not activate the crane warning device before/during the crane movement. As the crane moved to its next location, it pulled the cope of the hooked mold towards an 80- x 100-foot mold that was positioned a few feet away. The decedent was positioned between the two molds. The hooked cope of the moving mold struck the decedent and threw him into the other mold and then to the floor. The decedent was conscious and talking after the incident. 911 was called and the decedent was transported to a local hospital where he died.

MIOSHA Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations to the employer.

**SERIOUS:**

- **OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1865(6)(c).**  
When attaching or moving a load, the operator, rigger, or hooker shall make sure the sling and load will clear all obstacles or obstructions.

Employer was not enforcing operators to assure that slings clear all obstacles when attaching or moving a load.

**SERIOUS:**

- **OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1845(1).**  
Provide and ensure use of warning device to announce movement of crane.

Warning device to announce movement of the cranes is not being utilized by the crane operators, 50-ton overhead crane.