

Case 50. 43-year-old male craft foreman crane operator was killed when the butt section of the jib on a Manitowoc 250 Luffing crane fell on him.

On April 16, 2003, a 43-year-old male craft foreman crane operator was killed when the butt section of the jib on a Manitowoc 250 Luffing crane fell on him. The company for which he worked was the general contractor for a large construction project. The operator had 23 years experience working with cranes and was the general contractor's crane authority on the project. He had worked the day shift but had stayed over to shorten the jib on the crane. The jib was not lying down nor cribbed. It was 6 to 7 feet in the air. He was working underneath it reaching overhead to hammer the horizontal bottom pins holding a section in place to the outside. He apparently did not know that on this type of crane, when these pins were removed, there was nothing to hold the butt section in place. When the horizontal bottom pins were removed, the butt section of the jib fell onto the operator crushing him and causing his death.

MIOSHA issued the following "Serious" citations to the employer.

1. The employee placed his body beneath the butt section of the crane jib exposing him to the butt section falling while the two bottom pins were driven out of the connection point. The butt section of the crane was held up by the two bottom pins only. Cribbing or another support system that is capable of supporting the total imposed weight was not used. (General Rules, Part 1, Rule R408.40127(8))
2. A section of the crane manual covering the assembly and dis-assembly of the jib was missing from the crane manual. (Lifting and Digging Equipment, Part 10, Rule R408.41006a(8))
3. Employees were working under a suspended load and were exposed to two mid-sections dropping down and striking them when they removed the two bottom pins from the connection. (Lifting and Digging Equipment, Part 10, Rule R408.41025a(12))