

Case 437. 55-year-old equipment sales owner died when the crane he was operating tipped over, crushing the cab when it landed on a lowboy trailer gooseneck.

A 55-year-old male equipment sales owner died when the crane he was operating tipped over, crushing the cab when it landed on a lowboy trailer gooseneck. The decedent was operating a 1988 Link Belt Rough Terrain crane, Model HSP-8022. He was in the process of lifting a Hewitt Robius Vibrex gravel shaker, measuring approximately 6 feet by 6 feet by 14 feet from a trailer and moving the shaker to set on another trailer. It appeared that the decedent extended the crane boom approximately 6 feet; the boom was extendable from 27 to 70 feet. He had lowered the four hydraulic outriggers to ground level on the crushed stone/asphalt in the equipment yard, but in a retracted condition. The outriggers were 7 feet 4³/₄ inches apart when fully retracted and 18 feet 6³/₄ inches apart when fully extended. It appeared the crane boom angle was approximately 25-30-degrees. The decedent lifted the gravel shaker from the trailer and began to move it. At some point in this process, the crane tipped over to its right side. The crane cab was crushed when landed on the gooseneck of a 2002 Load King 55-ton detachable lowboy trailer. The outrigger pads were damaged and/or sheared off when the crane overturned. Emergency response was called and the decedent was declared dead at the scene.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citation to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: CRAWLER, LOCOMOTIVE, AND TRUCK CRANES, GI PART 19, RULE 408.11935(3):

Floats or pads secured to outriggers shall be used when the load to be handled at a particular radius exceeds the rated load without outriggers (see Rule 1923).

The outriggers were not extended to a position where the Link-Belt Model HSP-8022 could support the gravel shaker being lifted in the yard area without tipping.