



SAFETY ALERT

An accident occurred recently where a worker escaped serious injury following the collapse of a pre-cast concrete floor slab. The pre-cast concrete slab had been placed using a crane and the lifting strops had been removed. As the worker attempted to position the slab it slipped from its bearing and fell taking the worker with it.

Investigation by EHS identified that the concrete slab was not placed squarely on its bearing which was critical as the bearing each end was only 30mm. The lifting strops were removed before the concrete slab was in its final position resulting in the concrete floor slab twisting and falling. None of the workers involved in the operation were provided with safety harnesses.

All contractors carrying out similar work should take note of the following points:-

The following must be adhered to:-

- ➔ *Work of this nature where cranes are used to lift and position heavy items must be properly planned. A detailed risk assessment and method statement must be prepared by a suitably experienced person.*
- ➔ *All persons involved in such work must be briefed on the safe system of work, this can be in the form of a tool box talk.*
- ➔ *The load must never be disconnected from the crane until it is adequately supported and stabilised where necessary.*
- ➔ *Work on a leading edge where it is not possible to provide edge protection requires extra attention. Harnesses must be used and fixed back to a secure point.*
- ➔ *Supervisors must oversee high risk works carefully and ensure that workers follow the safe system of work identified in the risk assessment and method statement.*
- ➔ *In the case of pre-cast concrete floor slabs temporary supports should be considered until the slabs are tied and concreted in place.*