

01-03: Lasher Safety



SAFETY BULLETIN 01-03

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Lasher Safety

INFORMATION

Back in 1998 we published a Safety Bulletin 98-21 on Lasher safety. This Safety Bulletin is still on the PMA website. It is time to reinforce lasher safety and update employers and supervision on recent trends.

Unfortunately, Lashing remains the top injury occupation within PMA. Heavy awkward bars combined with narrow uneven walkways contribute to injuries due to falling bars, strains while tightening or loosening turnbuckles, and slips trips and falls on the hatch covers and walkways. The guidance in the 1998 bulletin still appears to be sound safety guidance for the predominant lashing injury situations.

Recently however, a number of disturbing reports and allegations have been made that may result in more dangerous exposures for lashers. These reports include:

Lashers are working next to an open hatches. This is prohibited by PCMSC Rule 1512 except where there is adequate protection to prevent falling into the open hatch. Rule 1514 requires fall protection on lashing pedestals if there are no railings. No one should be working next to an open hatch or an unguarded edge without rails or fall protection.

Lashers are working under the lights of the crane beam because there is not enough light for them to see. Rule 1501 requires that adequate lighting be provided for a worker to safely accomplish their job.

Lashers are working too close to the containers being loaded or unloaded. This is prohibited by Rule 1513 that requires lashers to stay half the width of the tier or at least 5 container widths off shore of any container being worked. Recently a lasher was hit by a cone that dropped out of a container that was being loaded. The lasher should not have been in this location near the container being worked.

Lashers are throwing lashing bars resulting in them bouncing off the ship's deck and onto the pier apron. This is prohibited by Rule 1508 which prohibits throwing bars and cones from aloft. Recently a front person was seriously injured by a bar that bounced off of a ship, hit the cross piece of the gantry crane and hit a swing person in the head.

There are plenty of ways to get injured as a lasher without increasing the odds by lashing in a dangerous area or increasing the risks by throwing the lashing equipment. Be aware of your situation and your surroundings. Control the bars and turnbuckles at all times. Wear PPE to protect your head, feet and hands. Stay in shape. Work with a buddy. Be Safe.

ACTION

Employers and supervision should review Safety Bulletin 98-21.

Employers and supervision should ensure that lashers:

- o Are not working next to unguarded edges.
- o Are not working next to or under the crane.
- o Have adequate lighting to complete their work.

- o Are not throwing the bars on the ship.

Detailed summary data on local lasher injuries can be obtained from the PMA Area TAPD Offices.