SAFETY BULLETIN

Safety Bulletin # 14-2

TELEHANDLER RIGGING

An investigation conducted into a near miss incident at one of our sites.

A worker was tasked with moving loosely piled 15mm rebar from one side of the site to the other. To accomplish this tasked, the worker choked the pile with two 20' composite slings, each rated at 4800 lbs when choked.

The other eye of each sling was then slid down the fork to rest in the elbow of the forks.

Because a single choke was used, and due to the length of the slings, the operator had to raise the telehandler boom to an angle approaching vertical. The load, when finally off of the ground ended up suspended over the front end of the telehandler.

At this point, both slings failed where attached to the forks, causing the load to fall on the telehandler between the cab and the outriggers. Fortunately for all involved there were no injuries and no damage to the telehandler. You can well imagine how a pile of 20' rebar would bounce at the ends and endanger anyone standing nearby, not to mention what it could have done had it struck the cab.

Investigations into this incident, and a review of similar incidents found online would indicate that the action of forcing the eye of the sling over the forks of the telehandler, then sliding it down the length of the forks, causes cutting to the fibres of the sling, which ultimately result in their failure. Examination of the slings also showed that composite slings, when wrapped around rebar are further damaged by the rough surface of the rebar.

It was also determined that the worker, who had some experience in operating the telehandler, was not 'ticketed' to operate it. He had received instruction on slinging the load as not to raise his boom to the angle used, but did not use the advised technique at the time of the incident.

As a result of this investigation three employees received disciplinary notices, including unauthorized operation of equipment and failure to properly supervise an employee.

RECCOMENDATIONS