



SAFETY ALERT

Equipment Falls from Height

WHAT HAPPENED?

Upon completion of turbine blade repair work, tools and equipment were being unloaded via a hoist from the turbine nacelle. A crane was traversing from inside the nacelle to the outside position in preparation of lowering the equipment. During the process, the crane load consisting of three bags became detached from the crane hook and fell from the maximum height of 44 meters to the ground damaging a lifting bag and equipment.

During the investigation the worker responsible explained that a 'basket hitch' method to sling the load was used. It appears that one end of sling was connected to the crane hook, but the other end did not connect with the hook as intended. The worker was not aware of this until the load was presented to the force of gravity.



Enactment shows 'Basket Hitch' method used and non-closure of hook



Enactment shows 'Basket Hitch' method and proper closure of hook

LEARNINGS

- 🕒 A drop zone plays a vital role during any lifting operation. The site supervisor had set up and was actively managing the drop zone for the duration of the activity. In an area where personnel or the public may be present below, had no drop zone been identified and managed, this event could have had a catastrophic result.
- 🕒 Always ensure the load is secure on the hook prior to commencing any lifting operation.
- 🕒 If using a single hook, check that it is an appropriate size, whether it is multiple slings or a single sling load.
- 🕒 If using a carabiner and shackle system, ensure it is suitably rated for the lift.

Safety Alerts are advisory only and contain limited information on an event which has been investigated and reported. The key findings of the investigation are published as a Safety Alert to highlight the key learnings from the event.