

# Awareness Following Recent HIAB Incidents

## WHAT HAPPENED?

There have been a number of incidents with the use of mobile operated cranes (Hiabs). This with the correct planning, competence, site assessment and control could have been easily avoided.

The photo opposite demonstrates the correct process being adopted for the lifting of a governor valve into an excavated trench adjacent to a gas main. The photo shows the operation being carried out in a narrow public highway, with a member of the public ignoring the demarcation zone. The load having an offset centre of gravity and a restricted view for the crane operator:

- The crane operator positioned so to be guided by a banks person.
- Banks person in place to preventing the public unauthorised access to the work area and to guide to the hiab operator.
- Demarcation area installed.

The principles of which can be used in similar lifting operations



## KEY LEARNING POINTS:

Example Hazards	Example Control Measures
Overturning of lorry loader or failure through overloading of the lorry loader attachment or lifting accessory	Accurately assess the weight of the load. Accurately assess the maximum radius at which the load can be lifted. Correct selection of the lorry loader and attachment.
Overturning of the lorry loader through ground bearing failure	Assessment of ground conditions and use of spreader pads
General public and passing traffic in close proximity	Implement working zone and traffic measures. Consider road closure / night operation.
Risk of damage to assets /OHL	Site survey. Isolate if possible and use of slinger / signaller
Centre of gravity (CoG) of load offset	Assess load CoG and test with check lift. Re-sling if required
Risk of crushing or striking personnel in working area	Establishing minimum safe working distances between load, operator and team.
Equipment failure	Pre use checks / LOLER certs

## ACTIONS REQUIRED:

### Planning Requirements

- Site Specific Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS).
- On site review of RAMS by the crane supervisor.
- A lifting plan should be considered for more complex lifts and trained staff to determine the complexity of the lift that may be beyond the capability of Hiabs.
- Implement traffic management / public protection measures in accordance NRWSA 1991.

### Lifting Team

- Appointed Person prepares the site specific Risk Assessment and Method Statement.
- Separate crane supervisor oversees lifting operation.
- Operator takes role of operator only
- Slinger / signaller required
- Temporary traffic management operatives (if required).

Acknowledgement for Information obtained from CPA – ALLMI Best Practice Guide. The management of Lifting Operations with Lorry Loaders