Suspended loads need careful handling to prevent serious injury or fatality. A suspended load has the potential to not only drop straight down, but to swing and strike people who are not directly beneath it. It is important to conduct appropriate risk assessments for work associated with or near suspended loads.

This snapshot covers suspended load incidents for the period from 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2017.

For more information about occupational safety and health, visit our website www.dmirs.wa.gov.au

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Injuries by severity

11 of the 13 injuries identified as suspended load incidents were classified as serious

4 of the 11 injuries were lost time injuries

Injuries by nature

10 of the 13 injuries were musculoskeletal

5 of the musculoskeletal injuries were classified as crushing

Injuries by employment type

8 Contract
5 Permanent

Injuries by occupation

Dogman or crane chaser
Conveyor belt repairer
Processing plant operator
Hydraulic fill operator
Supervisor
Rigger or rope splicer
Boilermaker
Fitter

Injuries by reporting category

8% Serious or appears to be serious injury (including fatality)
61% Incidents affecting registered plant
31% Potentially serious occurrence

Notifiable incidents by description summary

46% crane
33% breakage of rope
11% truck, mobile equipment or light vehicle
10% fixed plant

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Note: The information in this snapshot has come from a keyword search of incident reports.
Some recent incidents

Incidents affecting registered plant: Breakage of rope 30/04/2017

A processing operator was attempting to remove a rock from a bridged jaw crusher using an overhead gantry crane when the crane rope failed. The crane was tagged out of service pending assessment by suitably qualified repairers and an investigation commenced.

Serious or appears to be serious injury (including fatality): Crane incident 20/06/2016

A boilermaker was assisting a work crew who were rigging a wear plate for removal from the end of a screen using a crane. The boilermaker put weight on the unbolted plate which became unbalanced and tipped. The plate made contact with worker’s forearm and hand, resulting in a hairline fracture to the index finger. Work ceased and the boilermaker was taken for treatment. After assessment by medical personnel, the individual was placed on restricted work duties.

Spotlight on Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 236

Near miss when a pick-and-carry crane rolls over 21 December 2015

Key message:
Always conduct a risk assessment, have a safe work plan and revisit if circumstances change.

Spotlight on Mines Safety Significant Incident Report No. 194

Crush injuries sustained from working with a suspended load – fatal accident 16 January 2014

Key message:
At shift handover, provide the incoming shift with sufficient information to continue the job safely.

Five ways to reduce the risk

1. Do not walk or work under a suspended load

2. Thoroughly check every component of the rigging system to ensure it is fit for purpose

3. If you cannot see a way to do the job safely, stop the job and advise your supervisor

4. Work out who and what would be in the line of fire if something failed and do something about it

5. Do you know the stored energy hazards associated with the work you are doing? Identify and use adequate control measures

For more information see our safety alerts and summaries for industry awareness at www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety