Lifting Operations – Property Damage

SAFETY ALERT

Description of incident:

Three members of the deck crew on a North Sea installation were tasked to carry out routine lifting operations to re-locate a container.

The wind speed at the time of the incident was approximately 38 – 39 knots. The push/pull sticks were used to control the load.

As the lift progressed and the instruction was given to the crane operator to raise the load, the container being lifted came into contact with a single scaffold tube.

The scaffold tube had been in a horizontal position secured into a handrail and a habitat but was bent into a rearward position.

The job was immediately stopped.

Safe Mechanical Lifting

Plan lifting operations and control the area

- I confirm that the equipment and load have been inspected and are fit for purpose
- I only operate equipment that I am qualified to use
- I establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones
- I never walk under a suspended load

Work Authorisation

Work with a valid permit when required

- I have confirmed if a permit is required
- I am authorised to perform the work
- I understand the permit
- I have confirmed that hazards are controlled and it is safe to start
- I stop and reassess if conditions change

7Cs OF SAFETY

CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Ensure a Dynamic Risk Assessment is carried out.

If weather conditions change during carrying out work, the job is reassessed.

If the work environment becomes unsafe due to weather conditions, stop the job is permitted until visibility improves and the job can be safely completed and reassessed.

Findings:

The primary cause of the incident was a combination of inadequate planning and risk perception. A contributing factor was poor weather conditions and visibility.

In addition, it is thought likely the centre of gravity of the load was not in line with the hook. The deflection of the crane boom was not adequately corrected after taking the weight, causing it to swing and hit a nearby obstruction.

Key Learnings:

Lifting & Rigging personnel must ensure lifting operations are adequately planned with consideration of weather conditions and the need for additional personnel.

A full 360˚visual `inspection/Dynamic Risk Assessment of the area of the lifting operations must be performed pre-task.