



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

FINDINGS OF CONCERN

MARINE SAFETY UNIT HOUMA

June 12, 2025
Houma, LA

Findings of Concern 007-25

CRANE SWING ZONE HAZARDS DURING LIFTING OPERATIONS

Purpose. The U.S. Coast Guard issues findings of concern to disseminate information related to unsafe conditions that were identified as causal factors in a casualty and could contribute to future incidents. Findings of concern are intended to educate the public, state, or local agencies about the conditions discovered so they may address the findings with an appropriate voluntary action or highlight existing applicable company policies or state/local regulations.

The Incident. On August 25, 2024, a fatal marine casualty occurred in the Gulf of America during platform decommissioning operations. While crane operations were underway, a crew member unknowingly entered the deck crane's swing zone and was subsequently pinched between the crane's counterweight and the vessel's deck railing as the crane swung around. Despite immediate emergency response efforts, the individual was pronounced deceased at the scene.



Swing zone where
casualty occurred

Contributing Factors and Analysis. The Coast Guard's investigation revealed that the crew member who suffered the fatal injury was initially positioned in a safe area but unknowingly re-entered the crane's active swing zone during the operation. The worksite lacked physical barriers or clearly marked exclusion zones to prevent personnel from entering the crane's swing zone. Additionally, there were no designated spotters assigned to monitor personnel near the crane, and the vessel's safety protocols relied heavily on individual situational awareness. Audible and visual alarms were in place and operational but were insufficient in the offshore environment to prevent the crew member's re-entry into the swing circle. This combination of limited controls, human error, complacency, and environmental complexity ultimately failed to prevent the crewmember's fatality.



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Findings of Concern. Coast Guard investigators identified the following voluntary measures to be implemented on vessels in similar service to mitigate the risks associated with the contributing factors identified above:

- Implement use of physical barriers, painted exclusion zones, or dynamic lighting systems to clearly define crane swing zones and high-risk areas.
- Assign a dedicated spotter during crane operations with authority to halt movement if personnel enter high-risk areas such as a crane's swing zone.
- Incorporate human-factor considerations such as complacency, fatigue, and behavioral risk into pre-shift toolbox meetings and Job Safety Analyses.

Closing. These findings of concern are provided for informational purposes only and do not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational, or material requirements. For any questions or comments please contact U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Houma Investigations Division by email at HIO@uscg.mil.