

Greetings All,

The festive season is well and truly upon us and many of us are starting to think about catching some fish, catching a wave or catching up on some sleep.



The timing of Christmas this year sees many people working right up to the last minute and the usual rush to get all of their work for the year done, get the kids their Christmas gifts and have a celebration drink can be difficult to manage. Please remember if you are heading out for a drink – leave the car at home and jump in a cab, designate a driver or use Public Transport.



We all know crane operators have the best seat in the house on many sites, and subsequently the desire for unauthorised persons to access cranes seems to increase at this time of year. Please be diligent in securing the trap doors and other access points on tower cranes. Also equally important is to leave the crane in the recommended stowage position – either as per OEM instructions or in line with the installation/engineering design for your particular site.



As always, it is important to take the safety messages and learnings from our workplaces home for the holidays. The Working at Heights safety principles of a rigger landing roof sheets safely on a factory under construction applies equally at home – it's a sure fact that the Frisbee or basketball your kids get for Christmas will land on the hardest part of your roof to access at some point – please use care in your holiday activities. The same can be said for wearing appropriate safety gear if you are on the water or on your motorbike – Using the correct PPE doesn't just apply at work.

The recent accident in Saudi Arabia where a large crawler crane toppled onto the Grand Mosque in Mecca killing 111 people and injuring another 394 people serves to remind us that it's not just tower cranes that need to be prepared for storms whilst unattended. The incident investigation team were quick to discover that there were no faults with the 1350t crane – however the crane was left with 190m of boom erected during periods of extremely high winds which was well outside the recommended manufacturer's ratings.

Please enjoy the Christmas break and New Year period and here's to all of us seeing 2016 arriving safely.

Cheers for now and have a safe Christmas !

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