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# HSE Press Release

July 2019

The following information was released by the UK's Health & Safety Executive.

## Improper planning and supervision of lift sees worker killed after being hit by crane

An electricity and gas utility company has today been fined after a worker was killed on Winslow Road in East Claydon.

Aylesbury Crown Court heard how, on 18 November 2016, Paul Marsden, a sub-station crafts person for National Grid Electricity Transmission was to move a delivery crate containing a compressor with the help of a colleague. Mr Marsden was using a remote-controlled lorry loader crane but as they attempted to attach the slings to the hook, the crane struck Mr Marsden resulting in fatal injuries.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC failed to ensure the lift was properly planned, effectively supervised and carried out safely. The company also failed to ensure Mr Marsden had received adequate training in the new lorry loader crane, in particular the additional risks due to the remote-control unit.

National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC of The Strand, London, pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Regulation 8(1) of the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER). The company was fined £334,000 and ordered to pay costs of £17 673.34 costs, as well as an additional victim surcharge of £170.

HSE inspector Stephen Faulkner, speaking after the sentencing said: "This tragic incident could have been avoided if the company had properly planned the movement of the crate involved. Employers must recognise operating remote-controlled plants carry their own risks and should be managed appropriately, including through providing adequate training for employees."

"Companies should be aware that HSE will not hesitate to take appropriate enforcement action against those that fall below the required standards."

Further information can be found at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/work-at-height/index.htm>

<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/06/07/national-grid-fined-after-worker-killed/>

## Engineering company fined after worker crushed by overhead gantry crane

A superconducting electromagnet company, Tesla Engineering Ltd, has today been sentenced after a worker was fatally hit and crushed by an overhead gantry crane.

Brighton Magistrates' Court heard how on 23 March 2018 Dr Craig McEwan, a unit manager of Tesla Engineering Ltd, died while undertaking the making of a superconducting magnet coil. Dr McEwan was working on top of a tank when he became caught between a moving gantry crane and a metal chimney on the top of the tank.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that Tesla Engineering Ltd had failed to implement measures to prevent a person from being hit by the overhead gantry crane. A chimney extension had been recently fitted to a tank and increased the height workers were able to access and so put workers at a height where they could come into contact with the overhead gantry crane but no measures had been put in place to ensure that the gantry crane could not be operated while workers were in an area where they could come into contact with the gantry crane.

Tesla Engineering Limited, of Water Lane Industrial Park, Storrington pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and has been fined £400,000 with £7546.72 in costs.

Following the hearing, HSE inspector Russell Beckett commented: "Tesla Engineering adapted the work process it carried out but failed to review their risk assessment or to take measures to ensure that workers could not be hit by the moving overhead gantry crane. Simple measure to either lock out the crane or to prevent workers accessing dangerous areas could have been implemented but were not on this occasion which ultimately led to Dr McEwan losing his life."

<https://press.hse.gov.uk/2019/06/05/west-sussex-company-fined-after-worker-hit-and-killed-by-gantry-crane/>