



Safety Alert



INCIDENT TITLE:

Wind Turbine Crane – uncontrolled chain release
(SM 1307802)

TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:

1300 hrs - 8 November 2022

INCIDENT DETAIL :

While running an unloaded chain back up to the nacelle, the chain caught on the edge of the chain bucket, & instead of dropping inside, it fed down the outside of the bucket until there was sufficient weight to cause the chain to whip out of the chain bucket and pull the entire free length to the ground. The hook end was approx. 3 to 4m from the bottom of the nacelle.

As the chain was running away, the Technician got under the back of the Nacelle until the chain stopped. He then inspected the Lift kit for obvious damage

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

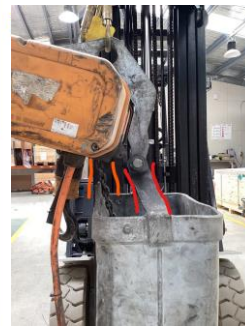
On investigation it was found that the chain bucket on original lift kit damaged and bent causing the chain to rub on edge of bucket during lifting operations. As noted on photo below the orange lines indicate the chain running against the bucket. The red lines indicate the bent bracket on top of the bucket. Replaced the damaged/faulty lift kit with new model lift kit.

Reemphasises the need for ongoing preventative checks and prestart check over of equipment

All West Wind turbines currently undergoing annual compliance where this potential fault will be checked

PHOTO

Shows example of chain beginning to collect outside bucket



IMMEDIATE INTERIM ACTIONS:

The Technician inspected the Lift kit for obvious damage. He got the chain back in the bucket discovered the chain end stop was missing, without this the chain could be run out of the motor unit.

The chain could then fall to the ground.

Drop zone was in place and no one was in the drop zone

Reported incident and referred to Engineering to review some suggested improvements to reduce risk of reoccurrence

THIS SAFETY ALERT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY THE HEALTH & SAFETY TEAM. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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