

## Unexpected gantry crane movement

### What happened?

A contractor was working on an elevated platform, a safe distance under the gantry crane track. The crane was idle, some distance from where he was working and was not required for the work being performed.

The contractor needed to step up onto a scaffold platform (on the elevated platform), that brought his head close to the same level as the gantry crane track.

Movement of the crane had been identified as a hazard, so the crane remote had been secured on the desk of another worker who had been involved in the planning of the work.

During the work, the worker at the desk had to briefly leave the workstation. During this period, another worker, not involved in the work and unaware of the person working up on the elevated platform, wanted to use the gantry crane. Finding the remote, he operated the crane, traversing it beside the employee working on the elevated platform. The worker on the platform was wearing earplugs, so was not aware of the crane approaching from behind until it passed in close proximity to him (there was no contact).

Crane operations were stopped, the scene frozen, and an immediate investigation carried out.

## Geothermal power station

### What did we learn?

The crane remote was re-secured, wrapped in black plastic, and tagged 'Locked Out'.

A Learning team was set up to review the incident.

Work packs and safety packs were updated to specify crane isolation requirements.

Investigating whether the instruments being worked on from the platform can be moved to ground level.

Improve the ladder design to access the platform to make it safer.

Explore options for audible alarms during crane movements, that can also be activated from the crane remote.

Review industry standards around LOTO / isolations and how they are applied in our organisation.



Contractor's work position, in relation to crane