IUEC INCIDENT SUMMARY

CLOSE CALLS, NEAR MISSES AND INJURIES

"INJURY"

April 28th 2024---IUEC Safety Stand Down Day

Description of Incident

Control Type: Electric
Machine Type: Geared
Speed: 200 FPM
Capacity: 5,000 lbs.
Rise: 10 stops
Hoistway Configuration: Simplex

- Two mechanics were working at a sugar refinery on a 5,000lb production passenger car that had a door lock problem at the 4th floor
- One mechanic stayed at the 4th floor holding the doors open and the other mechanic went to access the car top from the 5th floor. The floors are 15 to 20 feet apart. To gain access to the car top, the mechanic had to climb across the counterweight spreader bracket and down the doghouse to access the car top to put the car on inspection. The mechanic had done this many times before while working alone.
- As the mechanic was climbing down to the car top, he yelled to the other mechanic; "don't let the doors close whatever you do". The plant was very noisy and the mechanic on the 4th floor thought he said let the doors close.
- When the doors closed, the car ran up forcing the mechanic climbing down to lean in-between the counterweight rails to gain enough clearance for the car to run past him. As he did this, he felt the counterweight on his shoulder, so he jumped to the governor rope and slid down the rope approximately 100 feet to the pit floor.

Current Status:

The mechanic sustained cuts, bruises and rope burns on his hands and stomach. He tore his ACL, MCL, and meniscus and dislocated his left knee. A specialist recommends a full knee replacement.

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Recommendations & Lessons Learned

- Always follow the company safety policy
- Always perform a JHA/JSA per company policy

Possible Root Causes:

A JHA was not performed

Hazardous Top-of-Car Access/Egress Procedure

Lock out Tag out was not performed

Poor communication between the mechanics

Field Employees' Safety Handbook

Section 1 GENERAL SAFETY
1.1 Employee responsibilities
(h) When unexpected movement of the equipment presents a safety hazard while performing tasks on any parts of that move, the equipment shall be made inoperative by use of lockout and tagout. See Lockout and Tagout Procedure, Section 7.

Section 7 LOCKOUT AND TAGOUT
7.1 Procedures
(b) Where the accidental starting of the equipment would create a hazard – deactivate main line disconnect switch to shut off the power. CAUTION: Do not stand directly in front of the mainline disconnect when operating (stand off to the side of the disconnect). Each employee shall apply to the disconnect switch a personal lock and a "Do Not Start" tag with the employee's name (Section 5.3).

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