

**Workplace Fatality Summary Report:**

**Worker Fatally Injured While Loading Pipe Reel**

## The Contents of this Report

This report summarizes the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's Occupational Health and Safety Branch investigation of a fatal incident. The information contained is intended for educational purposes only.

## Incident Summary

A worker was fatally injured when a hoisted reel of pipes became unstable and fell to the ground.

## Background Information

The fatally injured worker (worker 1) was the lead hand on the worksite and was assisting three other workers in loading pipe reel onto an A-frame.

## Equipment and Materials

### Excavator:

Figure 1 shows the excavator that was used to hoist the pipe reels.



*Figure 1*

## Pipe Reels:

Figure 2 shows the pipe reels that were being lifted by the excavator.



*Figure 2*

**Sling:**

Figure 3 shows the polyester sling that was attached to the lifting lug.



Figure 3

**Swivel Hook:**

Figure 4 shows the swivel hook and the shackle pin.



Figure 4

## Sequence of Events

On the day of the incident, four workers were loading a reel holding 764 metres of pipe weighing 10,388 pounds.

Workers 1 and 2 were asked to assist worker 3 with loading the four-inch pipe reel on to an A-frame. Worker 3 began hooking shackles and a web sling to a lifting lug, then attached an 11 metric ton swivel hook on the lifting D-lug of the excavator's tooth bucket. The sling was attached as a tagline of the extension located on one side of the reel. The three workers attempted to lift the reel with the excavator, but discontinued their attempt because they thought it would be difficult with the machine bucket on it.

Worker 4, who was operating the excavator, suspended the bucket to allow worker 2 to remove it and connect the hook to the bucket wedge housing.

Worker 4 positioned the boom on one side of the reel at approximately chest height so that worker 2 could hook the slings. Workers 1 and 2 began assisting by pulling the slings to prevent it from snagging on the reel. Worker 4 then lifted the reel approximately one to three feet above ground level using the excavator to set it in a saddle of the A-frame. Worker 1 was fatally injured when the sling holding the reel became free of the hook causing the reel to suddenly pivot and land on its side while pinning worker 1 underneath the reel.

## Completion

The employer pleaded guilty to contravening clause 14-5(1)(b) of the *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* (being an employer fail to ensure that a sling used to hoist a load and the slings fittings and attachments are suitable for, and capable of, supporting the load being hoisted, resulting in the death of a worker). The employer was fined \$178,571.43 plus a victim surcharge of \$71,428.57.