

◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶



Piling Rig Failure

What happened:

On Tuesday 29th March at C512 Whitechapel, a piling rig suffered a failure to the rod end connection, between a hydraulic ram and the mast. This caused the mast to descend to a position where it was resting on the steel Cable Management System (CMS) above the site hoarding.

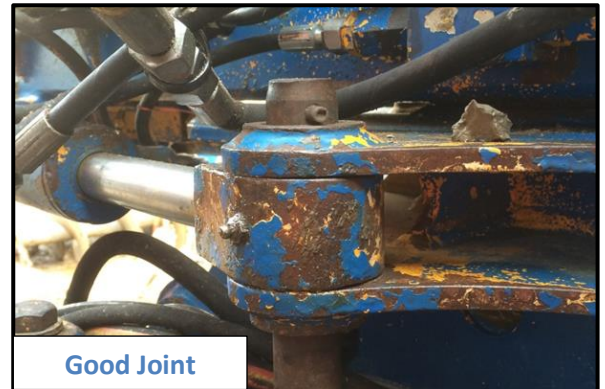
Following the investigation into the incident, it was identified that one hydraulic cylinder failed to the side of the piling mast, allowing it to descend.

The rod end thread of the hydraulic cylinder failed as it was worn to the point of failure. A lack of inspection of this component meant this had not been detected.

It was found that this part is particularly difficult to access and is not part of the general mechanical checks undertaken. There are no maintenance requirements on this particular part of the rig.

Future Considerations:

- All sites to acknowledge similar failures of the hydraulic cylinder could happen on other similar pieces of plant.
- Consider periodically dismantling plant/machinery to inspect areas not part of general mechanical checks, to ensure the internal integrity of individual components.
- Re-assess the frequency of inspection of these types of joint on all similar pieces of plant.



PEOPLE & PLANT

Date: 25th May 2016



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