



Crane Accidents: Repair or Replace?

Managing the Post Accident Loss

Even with the advancements in technology and operator certification programs, accidents involving cranes occur all too frequently. While cranes are frequently damaged on job sites, they can also sustain damage during transport, by weather and fire and even vandalism.

Often in the past, cranes or crane components that were involved in accidents were unnecessarily "put down," because the owner thought or was led to believe that the damage was too extensive to be repaired. But these machines can often be repaired

to pre-accident or even as good as new condition if the right people with the right expertise are able to "engineer" and perform the necessary repairs.

Regardless of the cause of the damage, the most important consideration is to find a time- and cost-effective repair solution that puts the unit back into service. So just how do you manage your post accident exposure, preserve the integrity of the machine and get the unit certified and back into service?



This is a new Demag CC1500 that was damaged in transit to the customer. It hit a bridge, came off the truck and skidded down the highway. There was both external and internal structural damage. There were also mechanical, hydraulic and extensive electrical repairs required. The unit crane was disassembled, repaired and reassembled.

There are crane repair companies that offer engineered structural repair and restoration services for cranes and other heavy equipment. They can provide assessments and proposals for the repair of damaged cranes. Cranes are inspected to determine the most expeditious and cost-effective repair solutions. The cranes are assessed as to the time and cost of the repair, including consideration for expensive, long-lead time and obsolete parts and components.

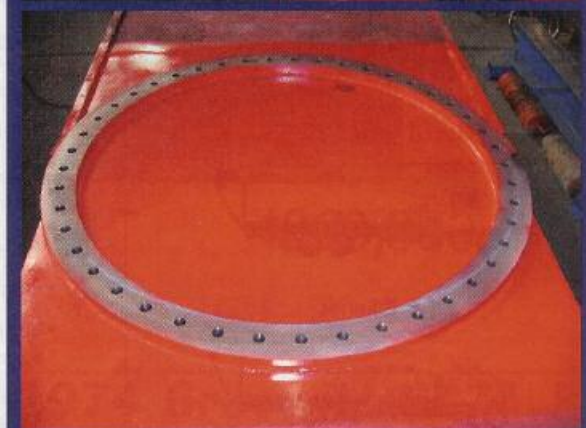
More and more, equipment owners and insurers -- including distributors, crane rental houses and even manufacturers - are discovering that repair and restoration can be the most effective solution.

"In the past, equipment owners, specifically crane owners, have been skittish about repairing a damaged crane or restoring an older one," said Ron Williams, chairman of WHECO Corp., "These are highly engineered pieces of equipment and repairing them requires very specialized skills. But our capabilities put the repair option back on the table."

WHECO provides engineered solutions to the repair and restoration process, producing repaired equipment that is warranted and certified. "Our technicians analyze and create an individualized strategy for repairing even the most heavily damaged equipment," said Williams. "When necessary, WHECO uses sophisticated "reverse engineering" solutions. Our facilities have total fabrication and machining capabilities, so that we can fabricate and machine individual pieces or entire components.

It is important when looking for a repair company to assure they can provide a comprehensive repair, with the ability to fix such components as booms, outriggers, super structures and carrier frames as well as mechanical components, hydraulic components and systems, and electrical systems. It is also important that a repair specialist be able to provide warranted, certified repairs, and that they are insured and bondable and have a proven track record with this type of service.

The goal is to assure the crane has been repaired to federal and industry standards and that it can be re-certified as such.



This is a carrier off of an older Link-Belt HC238A. The customer brought us the crane when the steel deck plate under the bearing started delaminating. An engineered repair was designed. The damaged deck plate was removed and replaced and the bearing ring was reattached and resurfaced.



For further information about crane repair, please contact Jay Shiffler, Vice President / Director of Business Development with WHECO Corp. jshiffler@wheco.com