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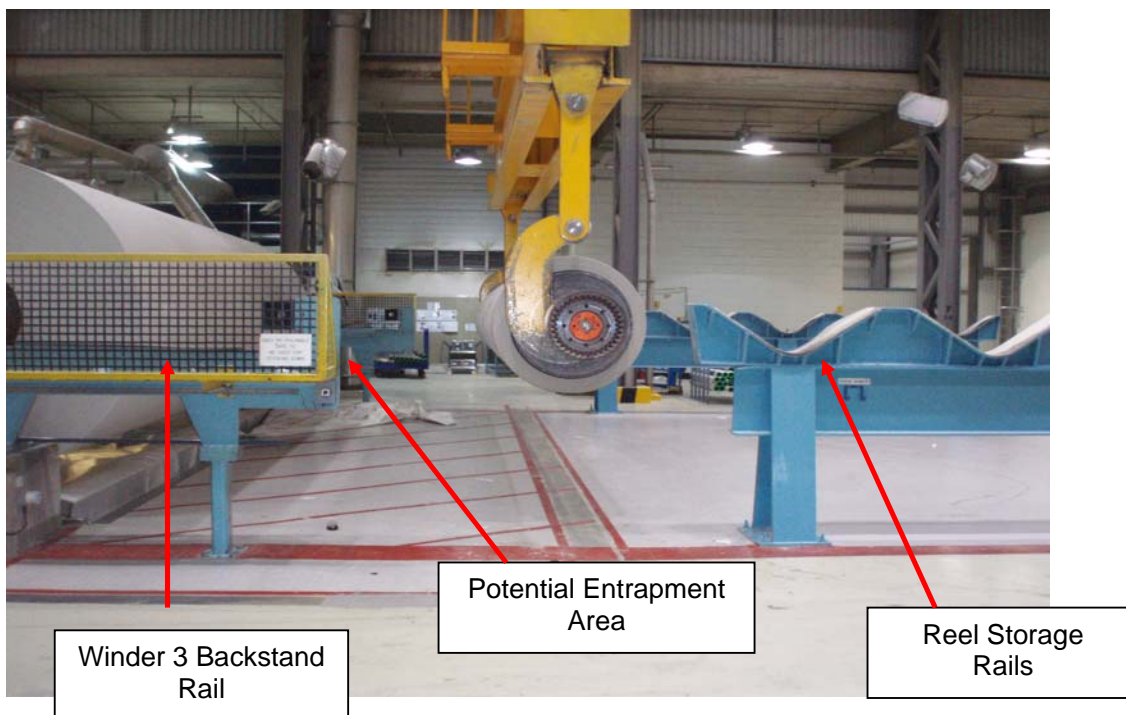
## Papermachine Reel Spool Incident - Serious Facial Injury

### The Incident

On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, a paper mill employee suffered a broken jaw and crush injuries to the mouth and cheek bone, when his head came into contact with a reel spool, while in the process of preparing a small reel of paper for storage. The combined weight of the reel spool and paper involved was approx 13.5 tonnes.

### Details of the incident

The incident occurred between 'Winder 3' backstand rail end, and the papermachine reel storage rails behind winder 3. The injured operator, an experienced dryerman, had used the crane, with a remote control box, to remove a small reel from the Winder 3 backstand rail. The reel was then suspended in the crane hooks at head height close to the backstand rail end while the operator dressed the reel and disposed of any paper broke. The detail is not clear, as all witness accounts are not yet available, but whilst the operator was leaving the area the crane moved and the operator's head was caught or struck by the reel spool in the area of the Winder 3 backstand rail end.



HSE investigations into the exact circumstances surrounding the incident, with the full co-operation of the company are still ongoing.

In the meantime the company has taken the following actions.

### **Company Actions**

1. Full crane function checks have been carried out by service engineers from Kone Cranes, these proved all clear and the crane was put back in service.
2. Work instruction has been re-issued to avoid all working on reels that are suspended in the crane hooks e.g. for dressing reels and taking lab samples.
3. If working on a suspended reel is necessary, then the crane emergency stop must be activated.

### **CPI and Unite the Union –Actions for consideration at all paper mills**

Taking samples and dressing reels is a common everyday practice in the industry which until now may have been considered a low risk activity. However, all companies are now strongly advised to review their current operating procedures against the above information, in particular the practice of working on or near any suspended load.

When reviewing your risk assessment and safe system of work consider:

- the load characteristics, and the surrounding environment;
- if the task in hand has been planned in advance;
- human behaviour (stress, fatigue, perception of information contained in safe systems of work, or misuse)
- the equipment being used, including hand held controls, layout and positioning;
- if current SSoW are in operation, are they being adhered to, and how are they being managed?

**Please note:** None of the above actions for consideration, implies or confirms that these were contributory factors to the incident. They are merely pointers for companies to consider. Investigations are still ongoing and until completed the only factual information available has been supplied by the company in the details of the incident.