

Dropped A-frame-mounted crane boom protection bumper

9 October 2026

NOPSEMA is alerting facility operators to a high-potential dropped-object incident involving a crane boom protection bumper mounted on the A-frame of an offshore pedestal crane.

The bumper assembly, weighing approximately 2.6 kilograms, detached from its installed position and fell approximately 19 metres to the facility's main deck. The bumper contacted intermediate structures during the fall. No one was injured, but the incident had the potential to cause fatal injury.

Facility operators should identify cranes fitted with the same or comparable bumper arrangements and verify the integrity of the primary attachment and secondary retention.

What happened?

While an offshore pedestal crane was being moved from its parked position, a crane boom protection bumper mounted on the crane A-frame detached from its installed position.

The bumper assembly weighed approximately 2.6 kilograms and fell approximately 19 metres to the main deck. During the fall, the bumper contacted intermediate structures and was deflected from the area immediately below its original position. No one was injured.

A secondary dropped-object retention arrangement was installed but did not prevent the bumper from falling.

Following the incident, the remaining bumpers at the facility were removed. The preliminary assessment reported similar deterioration in other bumpers.

Why did this happen?

The investigation is ongoing and no root cause has been determined.

Preliminary observations identified:

- deterioration and corrosion within the bumper attachment arrangement;
- apparent use of adhesive between the bumper and its securing plate; and
- a secondary retention arrangement that did not arrest the bumper after it detached.

The contribution of these matters to the incident remains under investigation.

The incident demonstrates that the presence of a bumper or secondary retention does not, by itself, confirm that the complete attachment arrangement is secure and fit for service.



What could have happened?

The falling object could have struck a person and caused serious or fatal injury.

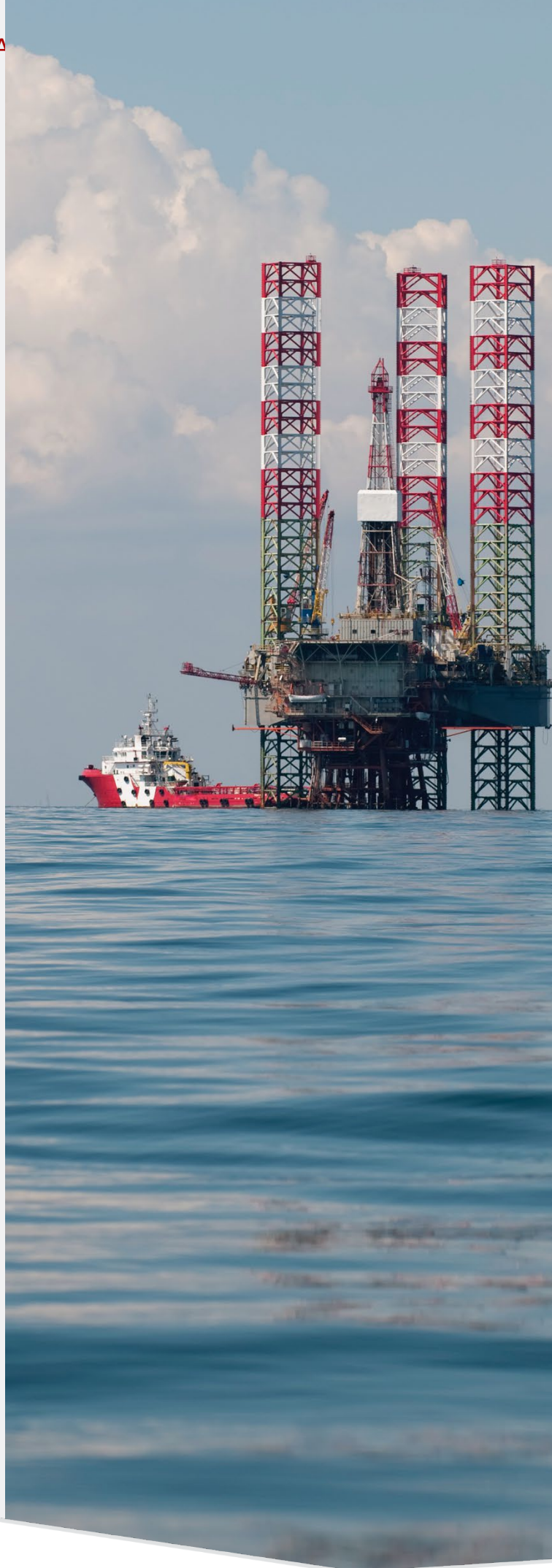
A falling object may strike intermediate structures, deflect and travel beyond the area immediately below its installed position. Controls based only on a vertical drop path may therefore be insufficient to protect people from exposure.

The preliminary assessment identified a credible potential for fatal injury from an object of this mass falling from this height.

Key lessons

Facility operators should:

- **Identify comparable equipment** and inspect crane boom protection bumpers with the same or similar design and attachment arrangements.
- **Inspect the complete assembly**, including the bumper, securing plate, bonding surfaces, fasteners and secondary retention. Inspection methods should be capable of identifying concealed corrosion or deterioration.
- **Verify the design and installation** against the original equipment manufacturer's specifications, including the suitability of any adhesive and secondary retention.
- **Manage the risk until integrity is confirmed**, including restricting crane operation and personnel access to potential drop zones where necessary.
- **Review maintenance and dropped-object controls** to ensure these components are included, with appropriate inspection access, frequencies, acceptance criteria and corrective actions.



The legislation

Operators of a facility should refer to their general and specific duties as defined in Schedule 3 Part 2 Division 1 Clause 9 of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006:

(1)(a) to take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that: the facility is safe and without risk to the health of any person at or near the facility

(2)(c) to take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure that any plant, equipment, materials and substances at the facility are safe and without risk to health;

Under regulation 2.5(4)(f) of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Safety) Regulations 2024, the safety case for a facility must contain a detailed description of the safety management system that provides for the inspection, testing and maintenance of equipment and hardware that are physical control measures for major accident event risks.

Operators should ensure that the inspection, testing and maintenance arrangements described in the accepted safety case are implemented and remain effective, including where equipment and hardware form part of a control measure.

Contact

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