CRANE FALL HAZARD ABATEMENT AT NAVAL INVENTORY CONTROL POINT (NAVICP) MECHANICSBURG, PA

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Southwest (NAVFAC) funded a comprehensive hazard abatement site analysis at Naval Inventory Control Point (NAVICP) Mechanicsburg, PA. Safety industry design engineers, who were experienced in abating crane hazards and formally trained and certified by a nationally recognized leader in fall abatement and hazard identification, conducted the analysis to identify safety hazards related to operating and maintenance of NAVICP's bridge cranes.

NAVICP's 60-foot high 400-ton bridge crane

The 60-foot high, 400-ton stationery bridge crane was especially important to the engineers and the NAVICP Safety Department. Crane inspectors and mechanics were at risk of falling from heights while climbing up to and down from the trolley platform on the crane's top deck and while working on that platform. Although the inspectors and mechanics always wore fall arrest gear when on the platform, the crane had only one approved point for anchoring their fall arrest equipment, allowing for only a very limited and obstructed working area.

One anchor point for fall arrest gear resulted in very limited working area

NAVICP applied for Navy Hazard Abatement Program funding to evaluate and correct this occupational fall hazard. The Chief of Naval Operations provides Hazard Abatement Program funds to abate occupational health and safety hazards for which other funding is not available. The Hazard Abatement fund is administered by the Naval Facilities Engineering Services Center (NFESC) to assist Navy commands in eliminating workplace hazards.

Safety industry engineers, Navy Crane Center maintenance personnel and operators, and two Navy Public Works Mechanicsburg crane inspectors, Dick Hartung and Mark Richardson collaborated on the development of designs for a cost-effective solution to the bridge crane hazards that would also comply with OSHA and the Navy Crane Center's strict safety requirements. The solution included installation of catwalks, with both permanent and removable guardrails, ladder cages, and protective access covers for rotating equipment

such as winch drive shafts. After the Navy Crane Center and NAVICP Safety and Public Works performed the final condition inspection, the crane's operational tests were performed by Mr. Hartung and Mr. Richardson. This completed inspection and approval of the bridge crane remediation. The bridge crane also passed its annual recertification inspection.

Safety guardrails installed on bridge crane prevent falls

As a direct result of the improved fall protection measures on the bridge crane, NAVICP bridge crane operators, maintenance workers and crane inspectors are now safer. They all comment favorably on how much more comfortable they feel when climbing up to and down from the bridge crane and how much safer it is working on top of the 60-foot high crane.

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