

## SERIOUS INJURY ACCIDENT: January 2010 Crane Helper Injured By Outrigger

On January 19, 2010, a crane service employee with two and a half years of experience was seriously injured during the breakdown of a crane. The crane had completed setting a sand dredge in a river and the crew was breaking down the crane to leave the property. As the crane operator was retracting the right rear outrigger, the helper reached down to drop the pad off the outrigger. While reaching for the pad, he placed his left hand on the outrigger allowing his hand to be caught in a pinch point between the moving and stationary parts of the telescoping outrigger. The injured worker was hospitalized and treated for a broken and degloved thumb, broken little finger, and had surgery to repair tissue and nerve damage.

### CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS:

This accident occurred because:

- The injured miner failed to follow safe operating procedures and placed his hand in a dangerous location (i.e., a pinch point).

To avoid a similar accident, DMM recommends the following:

- Re-evaluate or establish safe work procedures for each task and review them with the miners assigned to those tasks.
- Remind miners of their responsibility to inspect their work areas prior to starting work and frequently thereafter. Unsafe conditions are to be corrected or reported to the certified mine foreman.
- Miners must be alert and remain clear of moving machinery or equipment and avoid potential pinch points that may be present.
- Equipment operators must be certain that all persons are in the clear before starting or moving machinery and equipment.
- Review this accident and all contributing factors with all mine and contractor personnel.



Telescoping outrigger where miner was injured