

Hydro Tasmania

SAFETY OR ENVIRONMENT ALERT

Topic – Sling breakage causing load to fall

Alert Number (YYMMDD)	251118	Date Issued	18 November 2025
SAP Incident Number	82804	Approved By	Head of WHS
Alert Category	Safety	Action Required?	Yes

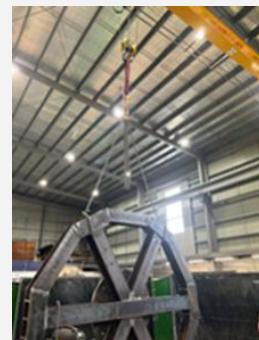
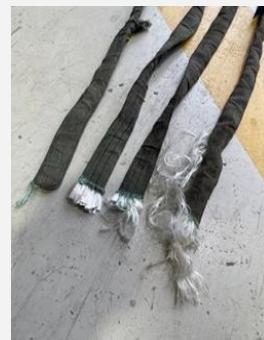
Alert details/incident summary

On 3 November 2025 in the Cambridge workshop fabrication area, a 1,200 kg fabricated frame was being tilted using two soft slings so welding could be performed. Both slings were in contact with the frame's edge. After an initial controlled tilt, the frame was lifted higher, at which point one sling sheared and failed, causing the load to shift and overload the second sling, which also failed. The frame then dropped to the ground. The base of the frame remained in contact with the ground throughout the tilt, and both workers were clear of the drop zone. No injuries occurred.

Alert/incident photos



Slings attached to frame for original tilt, sling guards not used.



Chains used for the second tilt

Immediate action taken

- Inspected the frame to confirm no damage had occurred.
- Reviewed the tilting method using a gantry crane evaluation in accordance with the lifting and rigging procedure.
- Tilted the frame using chains instead of slings, providing a safer and more suitable option.

Actions for employees and actions for leaders:

- Use chains instead of soft slings for lifting/tilting tasks wherever possible (and ensure chains have a contact radius of not less than 2 times the chain link diameter).
- When soft slings are required, ensure sling guards are fitted to protect the slings from sharp edges (and ensure slings have a contact radius of not less than 3 times the compressed sling thickness).
- Ensure all personnel involved in lifting and rigging are familiar with, and follow, the lifting and rigging procedure.
- Ensure serious incidents are reported promptly in line with the incident management procedure, which requires notification as soon as the area is safe and no later than within one hour.