

# SAFETY ALERT



**Safety Alert No. 454**

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**Contact: [bseepublicaffairs@bsee.gov](mailto:bseepublicaffairs@bsee.gov)**

**Phone: 800.200.4853**

## **Auxiliary Line Abrading Causes Rope Guard Failure**



Abraded main line carrier sheave side plate and pin boss.



Inside abraded main line carrier sheave side plate that is missing rope guard.

A BSEE investigation found that chronic scraping and rubbing by an auxiliary line created enough damage to the main line idler sheave carrier side plate, pin boos, rope guard, and auxiliary line that it caused the guard of the main load line idler sheave carrier to fail. The rope guard fell approximately 100 feet, landing near personnel working below.

This damage occurs when the auxiliary line is used at high rates of speed, causing the auxiliary line to jump onto the main line idler sheave. This incident involved an American Aero OM 450 crane; other cranes with a similar configuration could see the same issue. Additional information is included in the [BSEE Accident Investigation Report](#).

### **BSEE recommends operators and contractors adhere the following procedures:**

- Inspect idler sheaves and wire ropes for wear indicative of friction and abrading when performing pre-use inspections described in API RP 2D.
- Replace single main load line idler sheave carriers with a double sheave idler.
- Review [Safety Alert #426](#) regarding dropped object hazards.

A **Safety Alert** is a tool used by BSEE to inform the offshore oil and gas industry of the circumstances surrounding a potential safety issue. It also contains recommendations that could assist avoiding potential incidents on the Outer Continental Shelf.

**Category:** Crane/Lifting