

Crane headache ball dropped to pipe deck

Safety Alert

What happened?

During operations to park a crane in its rest, there was a requirement to override the hoist line limit to raise the headache ball when parked to prevent impacting operation of a gantry crane below.

The crane operator was experienced yet new to the installation. The crane operator applied the hoist line override and raised the headache ball when the crane was at a radius of approx. 25 – 30m instead of when the crane almost in its rest at a radius 51.3 m.

When booming down the hoist wire ferrule and headache ball was drawn into the boom tip. The ferrule was deformed due to abnormal loading resulting in the hoist wire pulling through causing the headache ball to drop.

There were no injuries resulting from the incident, there was however damage to equipment.



Ferrule within boom tip sheave



Recovered ferrule



Headache ball post incident

Good practice guidance:

- > It should be ensured that risks associated with applying overrides have been assessed and are adequately controlled.
- > Where reliance is placed on human controls, human factors should be considered and addressed.
 - o Persons should be provided with information and instruction on how to undertake the task and procedures should be written addressing human factors good practice.
 - o Persons should also be provided with training on how to undertake the task and should be made aware of what can go wrong if instruction is not followed.



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Verification of learnings shared and feedback

To ensure this learning leads to meaningful improvement, follow the Plan Do Check Act process and provide your feedback to Step Change in Safety.

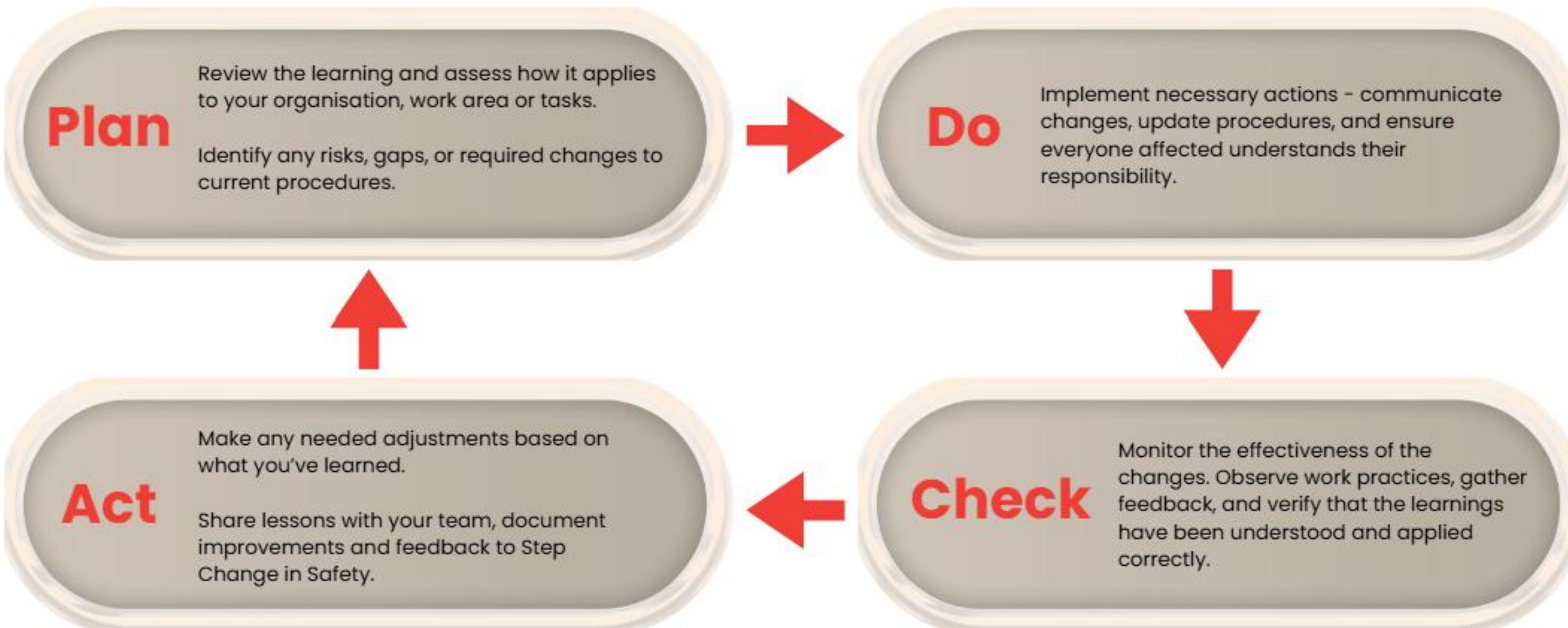


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create a safer workplace for
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Feedback Form

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