Float Falls On Worker Below Crane

A crew had been contracted to clean nets at an ocean-side fish farm. They were working aboard a barge which was fitted with a fixed boom crane. This crane was being used to lift a fish farm net. A 200-pound float was entangled in the line used to lift the net. As the float dangled overhead, the victim attempted to re-cinch the net with another choker rope. The float fell, striking the victim on the head. The crane operator called for help, but the victim was pronounced dead at the hospital.

The crane operator and another worker told investigators the float seemed to be so entangled in the line used to lift the net that they had not thought to clear it before the victim began working underneath. The crew believed, incorrectly, that the tangling of the ropes ensured the security of the float. Lack of training in the correct procedures for rigging and hoisting were obvious factors in this fatality. The security of the load is essential when moving materials by any means and in any industry.

Never forget about the importance of wearing a hardhat for protection against overhead objects.