

## Container ship is drifting and ramming the harbor crane at DP World, maintenance technicians escape in time



**Kristof Pieters** 09 december 2019 14u48

At DP World in Doel (Beveren) a large harbor crane, about 43 meters high, collapsed on Monday afternoon after a collision by a container ship that had drifted. Fortunately, the crane was not manned at the time of the accident. There were maintenance technicians working on it, but they could get rid of it in time. So there were no injuries, but the havoc is great.

The accident happened around 1.45 p.m. The APL Mexico City container ship had arrived a few hours earlier from Hamburg and had just arrived at container handling company MPET on quay 1742. The strong winds were causing the bunches to break loose and the ship was drifting. Tugboats tried in vain to stop the mastodon. The crew was also unable to control the ship in time. The ship drifted completely to the other side of the dock, after which it crashed into a harbor crane around 2 pm at DP World. The impact of the crane completely collapsed.

## **Technicians got out in time**

Fortunately, there were no operations under the tap at that time. Both container handler DP World and CEPA, the employers' organization for port workers, confirm that there were no injuries. Shortly before the collision, maintenance work was underway in the crane and various technicians were working. "It is partly about external workers as their own personnel," confirms Kris Thieren, spokeswoman for DP World. "However, they saw the ship coming and were able to get rid of it in time. There was fifteen minutes between the drift and the collision. Nevertheless, it was quite a shock. The employees involved could therefore also apply for victim support."

The affected crane was one of the smaller ones at the head of the dock. "The" blow ", which is the excellent part with which containers are loaded and unloaded, is about 43 meters high," continues Thieren. "The ship collided with that, after which the rest of the crane also crashed."

## **Activities ceased**

The 328 meter long container ship was temporarily docked at DP World after the accident. The ship itself only suffered a slight damage to the stern. "A safety perimeter has now been set around the collapsed crane, but we think we can restart our operations in the course of the evening," says Thieren. "The affected crane was mainly used for smaller operations and the impact on the terminal will therefore not be huge."

The damage is particularly large. The affected tap partly landed in the water. The dismantling and cleaning up of the debris will probably take some time. Also, at MPET, across the Deurganck dock, all activities were temporarily suspended after the incident on Monday.







# APL MEXICO CITY

Container Ship



  
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