

Lifting with Cranes and Hoists

A SAFETY TALK FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS

This safety talk is designed for discussion leaders to use in preparing safety meetings.

Set a specific time and date for your safety meeting. Publicize your meeting so everyone involved will be sure to attend.

Review this safety talk before the meeting and become familiar with its content. Make notes about the points made in this talk that pertain to your workplace. You should be able to present the material in your own words and lead the discussion without reading it.

Seating space is not absolutely necessary, but arrangements should be made so that those attending can easily see and hear the presentation.

Collect whatever materials and props you will need ahead of time. Try to use equipment in your workplace to demonstrate your points.

DURING THE MEETING

Give the safety talk in your own words. Use the printed talk merely as a guide.

The purpose of a safety meeting is to initiate discussion of safety problems and provide solutions to those problems. Encourage employees to discuss hazards or potential hazards they encounter on the job. Ask them to suggest ways to improve safety in their area.

Don't let the meeting turn into a gripe session about unrelated topics. As discussion leader, it's your job to make sure the topic is safety. Discussing other topics wastes time and can ruin the effectiveness of your safety meeting.

At the end of the meeting, ask employees to sign a sheet on the back of this talk as a record that they attended the safety meeting. Keep this talk on file for your records.

Lifting with Cranes and Hoists

Generally speaking, when we talk about staying close to the load, we are referring to certain procedures that must be followed in order to eliminate or reduce the risk of an accident, causing injury to workers or damage to property.

Of course, it's necessary to understand what you are lifting. What is the load?

Do you have the proper slings? Is the load properly hooking on the crane or hoisting machine? Are you lifting a load that is exceeding the safe limit of the hoisting machine? Is the person hooking on the load in complete agreement with the operator as to the signals and where the load is to go? Often the operator cannot see the material or equipment that is being handled, especially in building construction work.

Employees should not be permitted to work beneath the area where materials are being loaded or unloaded. If it is necessary to swing a load over other workers at the site, make sure they are warned. Every precaution should be taken to protect workers by means of barricades or a flagman.

Many injuries are caused because workers are standing or working under swinging loads; unsafe rigging, hooks or slings can cause a load to fall.

What about the weather? Are conditions so unfavorable that the wind or rain play "tricks" with the load or reduce the visibility of the workers or the operator who is hoisting the material?

Only experienced employees should make the sling hitches on a load. Do you know the proper procedures for handling equipment and material?

NOTE TO DISCUSSION LEADER:

Review these procedure with your employee. If there have been accidents recently in your area, be prepared to discuss them with your employee. Listen to their ideas; they may have the answer you have been looking for. Also, mention any hazards that are unique to your operation.

For your safety and the safety of your co-workers, follow these safety steps:

- Plan ahead and know the load.
- Use the proper slings and equipment.
- Know the correct signals.
- Don't guess; think and be sure.