

OVERHEAD HAZARDS – CRANES AND FORKLIFTS

Equipment that operates overhead, such as forklifts and cranes, can sometimes bring about an “out of sight, out of mind” attitude in many employees when it comes to safety. Workers should never forget the safety hazards when operating or working near equipment that can transport loads overhead. Only trained and certified operators should use cranes and forklifts. They should always be inspected and tested before operation.

Operators using equipment with suspended loads should check for clearances in all directions before lifting loads. Operators must know the load capacity of their forklift, crane, and rigging equipment; loads that exceed the limits of the crane, rigging or forklift should not be moved. The load rigging requirements need special attention; loads that cannot be safely rigged should not be lifted. Before moving suspended loads, the operator should inspect the path of travel for obstacles and people; the path must be clear before starting any movement. Whether operating a forklift or crane, the operator always needs a clear view of the path of travel.

Due to the risk of serious injury or death while working with suspended loads, the following guidelines must be followed when moving loads with cranes or forklifts:

- While suspended loads are being moved, the operators and other site workers should be aware of the potential pinch and crush points and stay clear of the moving machinery and load at all times.
- Ground personnel should stay a minimum of 15 feet away from the suspended load should it come loose or the rigging fail, causing the load to drop to the ground.
- Never allow anyone to travel under a suspended load, either on a forklift or a crane.
- Employees are not allowed to travel under raised forks, loaded or unloaded.
- At no time should the operator be away from the equipment controls when a load is suspended.
- To prevent accidental activation of the equipment, operators must lower and secure loads when not in use, and use appropriate parking and shut down procedures for safety.
- Loads that will be suspended need to be test lifted 4-6 inches off of the ground before moving to ensure the load is safely balanced at the center of gravity.



- Loads that will be transported over rough ground on a forklift must be secured to the mast to prevent shifting that could tip the equipment over, or cause the material to fall off of the forks and strike personnel on the ground.
- Rigging equipment should be removed from crane hooks when not in use, to alleviate the chance of striking ground personnel, equipment, or materials when moving the crane.
- Chains or straps for securing loads to a forklift mast be removed when not in use to prevent it from falling off and striking ground personnel, or catching material on the worksite.
- Nonconductive taglines should be used to control the load and prevent employees from having to be in the crush zone to position loads for landing.

Suspended loads present a significant overhead hazard; as such they must be treated with a great deal of respect to reduce the risk and potential for injury.

Safe workers know “what’s up” when working with suspended loads.



Company: _____

Location: _____

Topic: _____

Date: _____

WEEKLY SAFETY PROGRAM REVIEW AND PRESENTATION

1. Remind all employees that it is their right to a safe work place. Each employee is responsible to report and respond to unsafe work practices and conditions.

2. Review of recent incidents, injuries, and reported near misses.

3. Recent observations, safety violations, and demonstrated lack of knowledge or skills.

4. Employee suggested corrective actions for avoiding future reoccurrences.

5. Existing and upcoming work activities and potential hazards. Include review of supporting materials or documents and demonstrate safe work procedures.

6. Employee workplace safety concerns and recommendations.

7. Safety topic presentation. Include review of company policies, procedures, and location specific expectations. Encourage questions and clarifications.

8. Additional meeting notes.

Company: _____

Location: _____

Topic: _____

Date: _____

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Printed Full Legal Name	Signature
Instructor 1:	
Instructor 2:	
Translator:	