

Lifting and Rigging Toolbox Talk



Lifting and rigging are considered a highly hazardous task. There are a lot of associated hazards that accompany lifting any loads with cranes or equipment. The consequences of something going wrong during a lifting or rigging operation can be fatal.

Safe Work Practices

- All lifting and rigging operations must be performed by a competent person and with certified equipment only.
- Inspect the equipment thoroughly before every lift. Continuously check the integrity of the equipment throughout the day if there are multiple lifts.
 - DO NOT USE DEFECTIVE EQUIPMENT
- Do not exceed the S-W-L (safe working load) of any lifting gear
 - Find out the weight of the load and that the center of gravity is established before attempting any lift.
 - Decide upon the route to be taken when moving equipment and ensure the path is clear of obstructions and people.
- Anyone in a work area where a lift is being performed should be properly trained on the work scope, hazards, and mitigations of the task.
 - Use barriers and signs to establish an exclusion zone
- Keep away from the load. Always strive to use tag lines or push sticks to ensure space from the load.
 - Never lift over people, always use a tag line and keep hands out of the line of fire.
- When landing the load, ensure the load is secure and stable before removing rigging equipment slings, etc.
- All rigging should be properly stored after lifting operations are complete. Proper storage helps prevent the rigging from being damaged.

Lifting and Rigging Hazards

- Breakage of a sling, wire rope, or chain resulting in a dropped load.
- Swinging loads, manual handling of heavy rigging, holding on to tag lines, moving equipment, pinch points, working on elevated surfaces, trip hazards, slippery surfaces.
- Injuries and incidents that can occur: sprains, falls, crush injuries, electrocutions, and struck-by.

Summary

Proper planning and forethought is important to eliminate hazards and avoid incidents. Always follow your lift plan and ensure that everyone has read and understands it. Be aware of the hazards that affect you and your coworkers on each unique lift that is completed.