



SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

Working Under a Lifted Load

FATAL FACT: Two laborers and a fork lift driver were staking 40-foot-long I-beams in preparation for structural steel erection. One laborer was placing a 2 X 4 inch wooden spacer on the last I-beam on the stack. The fork lift driver drove up to the stack with another I-beam that was not secured or blocked on the fork lift tines. The I-beam fell from the tines, pinning the laborer between the fallen I beam and the stack of beams.

When you think about it, the human body is totally out-matched when it tries to go against a load being lifted by a crane or other machine. Think of the dangers for a moment. First the load is being lifted by a mechanical device operated by a human being. We know that both are subject to limitations and failures. Something can go wrong despite our best intentions. Loads can be heavy, difficult to rig, and are subject to unexpected movement. There is only one sure way to avoid injury - **STAY CLEAR OF THE LOAD!**

Lifting equipment movements should always be considered prior to set up. Every effort should be made to avoid having to move the load over the work area. If this cannot be done, work should be temporarily halted and the area cleared while the pick is taking place.

Be aware of what is happening around you and above you. Others may not be as conscientious as they should. An operator may not even think of the danger of moving a load over your head. If you see a load coming, get out of the way. Don't forget to look out for your buddy also.

Riggers and others may have to work near a suspended load in order to guide it into position. The use of tag lines can help keep you out of harm's way. The tag line will put distance between yourself and the load in the event the load shifts or moves unexpectedly. Tag lines can help keep a load under control but remember, your weight is no match against a load that has started to swing or spin and develop momentum. Let it settle down on it's own.

When tending tag lines, never loop the line around your hand, arm, or body. This could cause you to be dragged along with the load. Wear gloves. This helps you avoid rope burn.

Lastly, be sure if you are guiding a load with a tag line that your travel path is clear and safe before the load is suspended. You will be spending a lot of time watching the load, rather than where you are going. It would be a shame to take all of the precautions to avoid being caught by the load, only to be injured in a fall.



Beacon Mutual offers a variety of training opportunities for employees, supervisors and managers. Please check our seminar schedule for more information. www.beaconmutual.com



Prevention Checklist

- Instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and regulations applicable to the work environment to control or eliminate any hazards.
- In accordance with Title 29 Code of the Federal Regulations (CFR) 1926.21(b)(2).
- Ensure that proper personal equipment is worn in all operations where there is exposure to hazardous conditions, in accordance with 29 CFR 1926.28(a)
- Ensure that powered industrial trucks have loads that are stable and secure and that persons are not allowed too close to the elevated portions, in accordance with 29 CFR 1926.602(c)(1)(vi).
- Ensure that the employer initiates and maintains a safety and health program, in accordance with 29CFR1926.20(b)(2)
- Watch for overhead electric power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot safe working clearance from the lines.
- Inspect all rigging prior to use; do not wrap hoist lines around the load.
- Be sure to use the correct load chart for the equipment's current configuration and setup, the load weight and lift path.
- Do not exceed the load chart capacity while making lifts.
- Raise load a few inches, hold, verify capacity/balance, and test brake system before delivering load.
- Do not move loads over workers.

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