

TOOLBOX TALKS

Rigging Safety Practices

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TOPIC: Rigging Safety Practices

- Read and understand the **Operating Manual** for the lifting equipment being used. Do not overload the rated capacities.
- Wear the proper PPE; consider **eye protection, head protection, heavy duty leather gloves and steel-toed boots with metatarsal guards.**
- Ensure **slings and chains** are in good condition and not frayed or cracked. Understand their rated capacities and verify they are proper for the load. If the rated load of a sling cannot be read, the sling is out of service and cannot be used.
- Inspect **hooks and clasps.** Verify they are not deformed in any way. All hooks should have clasps that enclose the hook completely.
- If using **straps with ratchet fasteners,** ensure the ratchet is large enough to safely secure the load and will not break loose. Ensure the locking clasp is working.
- Secure chains and slings underneath, or attached to, the **strongest load bearing structure** on the load.
- Keep in mind that all equipment needs to support both the largest **sustained load** and the largest **impact load.** It is important that the lift equipment operator minimize sudden movements of the load.
- Secure loose parts,** doors, or other swinging components before lifting. Strapping or crating are common techniques.
- Attach threaded **eyebolts** to the load to create lifting points. Verify the eyebolt is properly rated for the job. Secure the opposite side of the eyebolt with a nut and washer if possible.
- If securing the load with **metal or nylon banding,** protect from lacerations by wearing a face shield, a long-sleeve shirt and heavy leather gloves.
- Secure the load and identify latching points so the **load does not shift** during transfer. Understand the center of gravity of the load and how it may shift once lifted.
- Attach **tag lines** to the load to direct where it will be placed and to mitigate risk of movement while transferring. Never stand underneath a load. Do not steady the load with your hands.

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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Questions to Generate Discussion

- Why is it important to understand the center of gravity of the load?
- Why is it important to secure lifting devices to the heaviest, strongest part of the load?
- Why is it important for hooks to have clasps?

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