

Toolbox Safety Series



Suspended Loads

“SUSPENDED LOADS”

Lightning doesn't have to strike twice to cause an injury. Once is usually enough. It's the same way with overhead loads. If one falls on you, it generally makes a permanent impression. That's why you should always stay out from under cranes, booms, and buckets. Your first accident may be your last.

Use your head. Make sure an object doesn't fall on you. Don't stand, walk, or work under crane booms, buckets or suspended loads. Always wear your hard hat.

Plan Ahead. When planning lifting operations, minimize the time the boom or bucket will swing over workers. Stay clear of lanes open to traffic when swinging with a load. Check carefully for any overhead obstructions such as overhangs and power lines. Swing into power lines and you risk not only injury to yourself, but think of the danger when power lines fall across the main lanes of the freeway. Failing to look before you lift could be deadly.

Think safety in concrete operations. Did you ever get hit or see someone get hit on the head with a piece of semi-hardened concrete dropped from a crane bucket? All of us must be especially careful to keep clear of the crane when the operator is loading and hoisting the bucket.

Think safety with backhoes. Pipe crews get so comfortable setting pipe with a backhoe that they may get under the load in a ditch. What would happen if a cable breaks or a hydraulic line blows? Operators, make sure workers are clear when back filling.

Remember, avoid danger from crane booms, keep out from under them at all times. And remember to always wear your hard hat.

PLAN YOUR WORK. COMPARE THE COST OF TEN MINUTES OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION, TO THE COST OF STANDING NEXT TO A CHILD THAT WOULD GIVE ANYTHING FOR ONE MINUTE MORE WITH DAD.

