

# Suspended Loads

## GENERAL DISCUSSION

Lightning doesn't have to strike often to do a job on you. Just once usually is enough. And it's the same with overhead loads. If one falls on you, it generally makes a permanent impression. That's why we always should stay out from under cranes, booms, and buckets. This means concrete buckets as well as backhoe buckets. Your first accident may be your last.

### Use Your Head:

Use your head. Not to stop a falling object, but to make sure an object doesn't fall on you. Don't stand, walk, or work under crane booms, buckets, or suspended loads. And while using your head, keep it covered with a hard hat.

### Plan Ahead:

If you have anything to do with planning lifting operations, be sure the boom or bucket will not be swinging over workers. You may have to rope off or barricade the swing area, or schedule the lifting operations when the workers aren't in the vicinity.

### Concreting Operations:

Did you ever get hit in the head with a piece of semi-hardened concrete that dropped from a crane bucket? It hurt, didn't it. Even though you were wearing your hard hat. How do I know you were wearing your hard hat? If you weren't, you wouldn't be here. Laborers have to be especially careful to keep clear of the crane when the operator is loading and hoisting the bucket.

### Backhoes:

So many times we think only in terms of crane booms, but the same thoughts apply to backhoe operations. A pipe crew gets so used to setting pipe with a backhoe that they get in under the load in a ditch. What is going to happen if a cable breaks or a hydraulic line blows? Look at the mechanics of the boom. If a cable breaks, will the load shift horizontally as well as drop? Think!

### Avoid Overhead Hazards:

Remember: To avoid danger from crane booms, keep out from under them at all times. And wear your hard hat, just in case.

## **GENERAL SAFETY REVIEW**

This is a time to review all safety concerns, not just today's topic. Keep your notes on this page before, during and after the safety meeting.

Are you aware of any safety hazards from any other crews? Point out any hazards other crews are creating that this crew should know about. Tell the crew what you intend to do about those hazards.

Do we have any other safety business? Discuss any past issues or problems. Report any progress of investigations and action taken.

Have there been any accidents, near misses or complaints? Discuss any accidents, near misses, and complaints that have happened since the last safety meeting. Also recognize the safety contributions made by members of the crew.

Please remember, we want to hear from you about any health and safety issues that come up. If we don't know about problems, we can't take action to fix them.

## **ENDING THE MEETING**

Circulate Sign-Off Form.

Assign one or more crew member(s) to help with next safety meeting.

Refer action items for follow-up.

Do you have any Safety Recommendations?

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Do you have any Job Specific Topics you would like us to discuss?

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**Comments**

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