

# **Cranes (Working Under Loads)**

This safety talk is designed for discussion leaders to use in preparing safety meetings. Set a specific time and date for your safety meeting. Publicize your meeting so everyone involved will be sure to attend.

Review this safety talk before the meeting and become familiar with its content. Make notes about the points made in this talk that pertain to your workplace. You should be able to present the material in your own words and lead the discussion without reading it. Collect whatever materials and props you will need ahead of time. Try to use equipment in your workplace to demonstrate your points.

## **BEGINNING THE MEETING**

Give the safety talk in your own words. Use the printed talk merely as a guide. The purpose of a safety meeting is to initiate discussion of safety problems and provide solutions to those problems. Encourage employees to discuss hazards or potential hazards they encounter on the job. Ask them to suggest ways to improve safety in their area.

Don't let the meeting turn into a gripe session about unrelated topics. As discussion leader, it's your job to make sure the topic is safety. Discussing other topics wastes time and can ruin the effectiveness of your safety meeting. At the end of the meeting, ask employees to sign a sheet on the back of this talk as a record that they attended the safety meeting. Keep this talk on file for your records.

## **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

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. 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!

Crane 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.

## **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. (Use the sample Hazard Report Form in the Reference Section of this binder, or your company' s own form.)

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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