

Toolbox Talks 2

053: Unsafe Acts: Cranes and Hoists

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Review company policies related to cranes and hoists.

What this Safety Talk covers:

Most injuries occur not due to unsafe conditions, but due to unsafe acts. This Safety Talk addresses unsafe acts around cranes and hoists.

Discussion notes:

Unsafe acts around cranes and hoists

- Taking a short cut by walking through a crane operations area. This needlessly exposes you to risk. Walk around the area, not through it.
- Ignoring red barrier tape. It really does mean “Keep Out.” Even if you have business inside the tape, don’t just walk in. Before you cross the barrier, stop. Observe what is going on and where you will be in relation to the load if you enter at this moment. If it’s unsafe, wait.
- Ignoring yellow barrier tape. This tape doesn’t mean “Enter, but be careful.” Your first line of defense is to avoid the area completely, if you don’t have to be there. If you do have business inside the barrier, stop. Observe carefully. Ask yourself, “What are the dangers inside this barrier?” For example, look for tripping hazards and objects that could fall on you. Enter only after you have identified the dangers within that barrier space.
- Letting yourself be distracted by conversation while crossing the barrier or working inside it. This even includes work discussion with your foreman, whose mind may be on the schedule at the moment. You may need to move to the safest part of the area inside the barrier or leave the area completely, if the conversation will require too much attention for too long.
- Walking under a crane load. If you realize you’ve accidentally walked directly under the load, move away.
- Making gestures to the crane operator, when there is a signalman or ground assistant present. Let that person be the single point of contact to the crane operator.
- Walking into the crane operator’s line of vision if you are not the signalman or ground assistant. This can startle or distract the crane operator. Avoid doing it.
- Arguing with the signalman or ground assistant. Don’t distract or interfere with the signalman or ground assistant unless there is an immediate danger. If the crane operator is lowering the load onto an energized transformer, for example, you have a *duty* to interfere with the signalman or ground assistant. If the concern is not immediate, discuss it with your foreman.
- Riding on the load or the hooks. Ride only in approved personnel basket or similar approved equipment.
- Operating a crane or hoist for which you are not qualified. The word “qualified” means you have training for that specific equipment and the permission of the owner and your company to use it.

Review and discussion

1. If you can save time by crossing a crane operations area, why not do it?
2. What do we need to know and observe, in regard to red barrier tape?
3. What do we need to know and observe, in regard to yellow barrier tape?

5. How can you avoid walking under a crane load?

7. A crane is putting HVAC units in place for you. But the one now being lowered is going to the wrong place. There is a signalman working with the operator. What should you do?

9. You're on the roof of a two-story building, and the crane operator is about to bring the boom down. What's wrong with wrapping your legs around the hook and getting a ride down?

10. There are several scrap packing crates on the roof, and if one breaks it's no big deal. The crates are going in the garbage and there is no foot traffic in the area. You can see the small crane is easy to operate. Why not use it?

Participant's Signature and Date

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