



# SAFETY SHARE OF THE MONTH

## SUSPENDED LOADS

**Never work under suspended loads.** Basic rigging safety minimizes the chance of dropping a load but does not eliminate it. **No work should be performed under a suspended load, and rigging should only be adjusted while the load is placed on the ground.** The entire area under the load path should be identified when planning a lift and kept clear during the lifting operation.

**Do not leave a suspended load unattended.** A suspended load that is left unattended creates several risks, even with adequate rigging and a crane of enough capacity. For example, the weather can change quickly, and a strong gust of wind can exert a large force on a hanging load. In this case, the entire crane can become unstable and collapse.

**Do not lift people with a hoist.** Personnel should only be lifted with a mobile elevated work platform (MEWP), or another device that is designed for that purpose. Using a crane or hoist to lift an improvised work platform is very dangerous, and forbidden by law. A static load has a fixed center of gravity, but the weight distribution is always changing when workers move around.

**Make sure the load is balanced.** An unbalanced load can easily tip or rotate once it is lifted from the ground, making it very difficult to control. An unstable load is more likely to fall, and the crane itself is also at risk of collapsing. Since a crane only applies tension, a swinging or rotating load can destabilize it easily. A load becomes unstable when the lifting force is not aligned with its center of gravity. When the center of gravity is marked, it simplifies the job for both rigging teams and crane operators.

**Make sure to use a tag line.** A tagline is a rope of suitable strength, construction and length attached to a load during a lifting operation to allow a rigger to control swinging and/or rotation of a suspended load during lifting or positioning. The tagline also allows the rigger to not work under the suspended load.

### Applicable Standards:

#### MSHA 30CFR 57.16007 Taglines, hitches, and slings.

- (a) Taglines shall be attached to loads that may require steadying or guidance while suspended.
- (b) Hitches and slings used to hoist materials shall be suitable for the particular material handled.

#### MSHA 30CFR 56.16009 Suspended loads:

Persons shall stay clear of suspended loads.

#### ASMI R11-1-1005 Suspended loads:

Men shall stay clear of suspended loads.

**ALWAYS LOOK UP FOR SUSPENDED LOADS...**

