

# Suspended Loads

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## TOPIC: Suspended Loads

Loads can be suspended by overhead cranes, jib and boom cranes, forklifts, wheel loaders and practically any machine that can lift a load higher than ground level. Suspended loads are especially hazardous as they increase in weight and size. If a suspended load is dropped, several hazards exist including projectiles and splashes, crushed bones and soft tissue, asphyxiation, and head and eye injuries, among others.

### Tips to avoiding injuries from suspended loads:

- ☑ Inspect chains, slings, eyehooks, straps and any other devices that are used to attach the load to the hoist. Ensure these devices are properly rated for the load.
- ☑ Verify the load is less than the rated load for the machine. If the load is suspended outdoors, consider the impact of ambient winds and the machines' ability to support the load. *Always use the lowest overall rating of any part as the maximum rating for the entire hoist system.*
- ☑ If applicable, verify hydraulic systems and air lines are not leaking.
- ☑ Verify chains and gears of the lifting device are lubricated.
- ☑ While hauling a suspended load, avoid sudden movements or stops that would cause strain on the support system.
- ☑ If using mobile equipment to suspend the load, ensure the parking brake is set to avoid movement of the machine.
- ☑ Ensure there are no fluids leaking from the load.
- ☑ Verify all materials and loose items on the load are properly tied down and secured.
- ☑ **Do not walk or work underneath suspended loads.** Try to keep a 10 foot minimum distance from suspended loads and a greater distance if the load is suspended at heights above 15 feet.
- ☑ If the load requires a tag line, make sure the tag line is long enough to allow the operator to safely guide the load.
- ☑ Ensure horns and back-up alarms are working properly.

### Questions to Generate Discussion:

- What is a safe distance to keep from a suspended load?
- If the hook's rating is 1200 pounds, the sling's is 2400 pounds and the crane's rating is 5000 pounds, what is the maximum weight I can lift?

Discussion Date:

### Employee Participants:

[illegible]

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