

Safety with Steelwork

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: Operatives should be aware of the hazards associated with the erection of steelwork..

Why: This potentially dangerous activity poses risks to the safety of those erecting the steelwork and of others who are in the vicinity.

Outline: This talk will cover the hazards associated with the erection of steelwork and the precautions to be taken.



Hazard

Operatives falling from height are a common source of injury in the construction industry – ensure that you are never at risk of falling.

- Falling tools and materials etc. are a hazard to others when you are working at height.
- Electrocutation from live overhead electrical cables may be a hazard.
- Many cranes have toppled during lifting operations because of poor technique.
- There is always a danger of impact injuries, including head injuries, when beams are being lifted and installed.

Q: What measures could be taken to avoid contact with overhead cables?

Q: How can the length of time spent working at height be reduced?

Precautions

- Erection will invariably involve the use of a crane – all lifts must be supervised by a competent person and involve the use of qualified slingers.
- When working at height, work from a stable working platform wherever possible.

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Safety with Steelwork

- When a platform is not practical wear a safety harness and fall arrest device – ensure that you are clipped to a secure anchorage point at all times.
- Ensure that there is a safe means of access to high level places of work.
- Be aware of the dangers to others below – cordon off the area at ground level.
- The use of cranes over long periods will mean that you may have to consider:
 - Whether the ground conditions can support the crane.
 - The area required by the crane as it slews – including, in some cases, consideration for the general public.
 - The proximity of buried ducts or pipes which may affect crane stability.
- Always wear the appropriate PPE.
- Do not move along beams by 'straddling' unless absolutely necessary.

Q: What should you consider as your next choice of working at height when it is not practical to erect scaffold?

Q: What additional precautions would you take before 'straddling' a beam?

Q: What type of safety harness should be worn and why?

Do you have any questions for me?

Sources

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/pdf/fatalinjuries.pdf>

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/industry/construction.pdf>

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