

Signallers and Slingers

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

Reason: Heavy objects are lifted around sites by cranes regularly – the potential for danger is obvious..

Why: Signallers and slingers must be trained and competent to sling and signal safely.

Outline: This talk will cover lifting gear, before lifting, during lifting and potential hazards.



Lifting Gear

- Check lifting gear for kinks and frays daily.
- Chains must not be joined by means of bolts or wire.
- No lifting gear must be used unless its SWL is marked.
- Do not use improvised slings or single leg of a multiple sling.
- Store chains, ropes, strops and slings in dry conditions.

Q: What should be marked on lifting gear?

Before Lifting

- Wear a safety helmet and high visibility clothing.
- Make sure you know the weight of the load to be lifted.
- Ensure hooks are 'C' type or fitted with safety catch.
- Ensure you can see the crane driver – if you can't, use radios.
- Ensure radios are fully charged at start of shift.

Q: What things should you check before lifting?

During Lifting Operations

- Use approved hand signals clearly and distinctly.
- Protect wire ropes and slings from sharp edges of the load with soft wood or other suitable packing
- Ensure correct pin in shackle is used and screwed home.
- Ensure hook is central to stop load swing when raised.

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- Ensure load is lifted off the ground and is free and correctly slung before hoisting.

Q: How do you protect lifting gear from sharp edges?

- Always use a guide rope to steady the load.
- Stand well clear of load being lifted.
- When the crane is in operation do not leave the area unless you are relieved by another signaller.
- Warn the crane operator of any obstructions to the load.
- To avoid damage to lifting gear, loads should be landed onto timber or other suitable bearer.

Q: What are your duties when the load is in motion?

Hazards

- Never tie knots in chains to shorten them.
- Riding on loads is strictly prohibited.
- Do not use lifting gear for other purposes e.g. towing.
- Keep all persons not involved in lifting operations away from vicinity, especially children and the general public.

Q: Name two hazardous acts regarding lifting.

Do you have any questions for me?

Questions for you

Q: What should you check on lifting gear before use?

Q: What must you look out for during lifting operations?

REMEMBER:

YOU ARE THE EYES OF THE CRANE DRIVER

Sources

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

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

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