



## **GBCA SAFETY TOOLBOX TALK**

### **WORKING WITH AND AROUND SUSPENDED LOADS**

Cranes are one of the most versatile, powerful and important pieces of construction equipment, accomplishing heavy lifting and moving tasks more efficiently. They are also one of the most dangerous pieces of equipment, creating fall and struck-by hazards as heavy, suspended loads move over large areas. Employees working with and around cranes need to understand these hazards, as accidents with suspended loads are serious and potentially fatal.

#### **Follow these 6 steps BEFORE moving a suspended load:**

1. Always check first for overhead power lines and other obstructions.
2. Make sure that the load rating for slings, chains or straps is adequate for the lift's rating. NOTE: all sling, straps and chains MUST have a tag identifying its safe working load.
3. Know the possible pinching and crushing hazards around the machine and the load landing area. Mark each of these areas.
4. Barricade the swing radius on the equipment to keep unauthorized persons from entering areas of pinch points.
5. Check for proper balance of the load and that all items are clear of the path of travel.
6. Follow a written engineered lift plan for all critical lifts. Deviations require a new plan on critical lifts.

#### **Follow these 6 steps DURING moving a suspended load:**

1. Never work, or allow anyone to work, under a suspended load.
2. Keep all personnel clear while a load is being raised, moved, or lowered. Crane or hoist operators must watch a load at all times when it is in motion.
3. A trained signalman is required and must use the standardized hand signals. The equipment operator and signal man must have clear, unobstructed views of each other.
4. Never allow more than one person to control a lift or give signals to a crane or hoist operator, except to warn of a hazardous situation.
5. Use an air horn to signal a lift is in motion to alert personnel of what's overhead.
6. Never raise a load higher than necessary, or leave a load suspended in the air.