



TOOLBOX TALKS

Focus Four Struck-By Toolbox Talk #5

How do we safely work around and secure loads?

[Ask the following questions and give time for answers.]

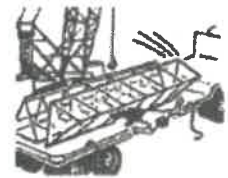
What are the hazards? Loads releasing onto workers from trucks or storage areas, materials dropped on workers while loading trucks or unstrapping loads

What are the results? Crushed or broken limbs, head injuries, amputations, death

What should we look for? Poorly stacked building materials, lopsided loads on trucks, loads not properly tied down, materials being lifted by cranes near work areas.

[Relate this incident or better, one you know.]

Actual Incident: A 45-year-old crane operator died while rigging a load. A tractor-trailer driver unstrapped the load to ready it for lifting. The operator climbed onto the load during rigging and it rolled off the trailer and crushed him. The tractor-trailer driver was not at a meeting earlier that day where drivers were told that their loads had to be kept strapped.



[Ask the following question and ensure every item is covered]

How do we prevent these results?

- ◆ Keep workers who are not involved in loading or unloading clear of loading areas.
- ◆ Load materials for maximum stability. Distribute weight evenly and keep materials level. Secure loads following safe and appropriate industry practices.
- ◆ Consider having a competent person inspect incoming freight to identify those that pose serious hazards during unloading.
- ◆ Nail 2x4 boards to the floor of cargo areas to secure equipment with wheels.
- ◆ Make sure cargo does not restrict driver's vision, free motion, exit from the vehicle, or access to emergency supplies.
- ◆ Stack and store materials with no more than a 4:1 height to base ratio and keep materials back from the edge.
- ◆ Perform rigging only if you are qualified. Choose the right equipment and inspect it prior to each use. Take defective rigging equipment out of service!



OSHA and our construction industry partners, such as the Mid-Atlantic Construction Safety Council, have initiated a "Focus Four Hazards" campaign throughout OSHA's Region III's jurisdiction. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness in the recognition, evaluation, and control of these hazards. Focus Four Hazards account for the vast majority of injuries and fatalities in the construction industry.

