Toolbox talk

Lifting and rigging

Sling and hardware checks, load weight and center of gravity, taglines and signals.

Lifting and rigging is some of the highest-risk work on any site. Things go wrong when a load is misjudged, hardware is worn, or communication breaks down. This talk covers inspection, lift planning, load control and signals.

Key point **Nobody walks under or beside a suspended load.**

Sling and hardware inspection

Rigging fails when it's worn, overloaded or past its service life. Every lift starts with checking slings, shackles, hooks and hardware for cuts, kinks, corrosion, stretched parts or damaged tags. No tag, no use: the sling is out of service.

Hardware has to be rated for the lift, meaning its working load limit covers the load. ASME B30.9 and OSHA set the inspection criteria.

Load weight, center of gravity and the lift plan

Dropped loads often trace back to a misjudged weight or center of gravity. Before a lift, know the weight, the balance point, the sling angles, the rigging setup and how the load will act once it takes tension.

Even a simple lift gets a quick plan. A complex lift gets a written lift plan, barricades and spotters. Use the manufacturer's charts for weights and angles instead of guessing.

Taglines, spotters and load control

Controlling the load matters as much as lifting it. Taglines guide the load, stop it spinning and keep people out of the fall zone. Spotters keep clear communication with the operator and watch the path.

Nobody walks under or beside a suspended load, and only the designated people are inside the lift area.

Hand signals and communication

Operators need one designated signal person, standard hand signals and consistent radio calls. Several people shouting directions is how mistakes happen.

Use the ASME standard signals, keep eye contact when you can, and stop the lift the moment communication is lost.

Ask the crew

1. What does this load weigh, and how do we know?
2. Who's the signal person on this lift?
3. Where's the fall zone, and is it barricaded?

Crew sign-in

Lifting and rigging

Date _____ **Site or project** _____

Presented by _____ **Company** _____

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Signing means you attended this talk and had the chance to ask questions.