

TOOL-BOX TALK

RIGGING

Rigging looks like an easy operation, one that does not seem to require any particular skill or experience. Do not be fooled. Many people who have thought “anyone can do it” have lost fingers or hands, or suffered more serious injuries. We do not want anyone injured while rigging on the job. So here are some of the “do’s” and “don’ts.”

Get your signals straight!

The only people allowed to give signals to the crane operator are those people designated as qualified signalpersons. This means they have proved they understand hand and voice commands by taking a written and practical exam.

The signalperson is responsible for their safety as well as those around the load being lifted. The signalperson must not order a move until getting an “all ready” from each crewmember.

Protect your hands!

If the signalperson must hold on to the slings to maintain tension while the slack is being removed, they must be sure their hands and feet are out of the way of pinch points. In fact, keep your hands far enough away so that a frayed wire or other imperfections with the sling cannot catch your glove and jerk your hand into a pinch point.

Watch out for rock and roll!

It is important to make sure the crane hook is positioned directly above the center of gravity of the

load to prevent horizontal movement of the load when the load is lifted. If you cannot get the hook above the center of gravity of the load, you should anticipate the direction of the swing or roll and work away from it. Never place yourself between material, equipment or other stationary objects and the load. Stay away from stacked material that may be knocked over by a swinging load.

Stay out from under!

Never get under a suspended load or swing a load above someone else. Always be aware of your surroundings and help make sure your co-workers are aware of theirs.

Set it down carefully!

When it is necessary to guide a load, use a tag line or hook. If you have to walk with a load, keep it as close to the ground as possible. Beforehand, look over the spot where the load is to be landed. Remove unnecessary blocks or other objects that might fly up when struck by the load.

When lowering or setting a load, ensure that the load is set on stable blocking. This will make it easier to remove the slings since pulling the slings from underneath a load with a crane is illegal. OSHA specifically prohibits this practice. Keep your feet and all other parts of your body out from under. Set the load down easily and slowly. Watch for signs that the load may shift once tension is removed from the slings.

Attendance Signatures

<i>(Sign)</i>	<i>(Date)</i>	<i>(Sign)</i>	<i>(Date)</i>

Additional training and information can be found in the LDD Environmental Health & Safety policies.

Training Provided by (Signature) : _____