

Toolbox talks

Lifting equipment

Background information:

This topic covers all plant certificated for lifting and includes cranes, piling rigs, excavators, forklifts, telehandlers, draglines and Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWP's) and lorry loaders.

Hazards:

- Falling of loads
- Proximity hazards and crush zone
- High winds
- Poor ground conditions
- Reversing/movement of plant and vehicles
- Overhead cables
- Overturning/collapse of lifting equipment
- Incorrect rating of equipment capability.

Health and safety points:

- Lifting equipment/plant should only be operated by trained authorised and competent persons
- No equipment/plant should be operated other than from the correct operating position
- It is illegal to carry passengers on any plant, or in the cab unless there is a proper seat provided and seat belts fitted (when training a new operative a specific assessment of seating is required)
- A competent easily identifiable slinger/signaller must be in attendance during all lifting operations
- Always stand outside the plant slewing and lifting zone
- Be particular careful when slewing and maintain 600mm clearance between the plant and any fixed structure
- Operators must be aware of other plant and personnel working in close proximity
- Watch out for overhead power lines – do not pass unless within the confines of the 'goalposts' and with a slinger/signaller in attendance
- Loads must never be left suspended in the absence of the operator
- The equipment must be made safe when left unattended, ie keys removed, brakes applied
- The engine should be switched off when plant is unattended
- Remember, equipment should only be used to perform the task for which it is designed
- All plant/equipment must have an up-to-date certificate and the correct documentation before starting work.

Question time:

- Q Where does the passenger sit on a forklift?
- Q Who may operate a piece of plant?
- Q Who directs the crane driver?

Have you got any questions?

Record questions on the attendance sheet.

Safety reminder:

Only trained, certificated and authorised persons may operate plant.