



# TOOLBOX TALKS

*ITI salutes National Safety Week with this informative series on Crane & Rigging Safety*

## People vs. Loads - No Contest!

Many accidents and near misses can be avoided if precautions are taken concerning the number of people around, under and above a load when it is being transported from one location to another.

During the pre-lift meeting, many questions should be asked as to the people and machinery in the load's travel route.

- 1.) What are the consequences to people and machinery should the lifting device or a piece of rigging gear fail?
- 2.) Will there be construction, maintenance or production people at work areas near the load's planned route? Can those people temporarily leave their work areas as the load passes?
- 3.) Is there an alternative route which reduces the risk to people and equipment? Is the alternative reasonable and cost-efficient?
- 4.) Is anyone assigned to serve as a spotter for hazards to vehicle or pedestrian traffic? Example: Pinch-point between a rubber-tire mobile crane and surrounding equipment or machinery.
- 5.) Are rigging crew members in an unnecessary risk position as pertains to the load's movement? Example: Under the load while trying to align the load's placement onto a bolt pattern. If a piece of gear failed, would the crew members be protected in some way?
- 6.) Will there be a tag line or restraining device used to prevent dangerous load sway?

- 7.) Would it be safer to roll, skid or dolly the load along the travel path, rather than from an overhead lifting device? What is the capacity of the floor, foundation or support system?
- 8.) Can the load or rigging gear make accidental contact with a high voltage line? Can the power be disconnected or temporarily shut-off?
- 9.) What are the environmental conditions (wind, temperature, rain, ice, etc) which can have direct effects on the load or gear?
- 10.) Will the rigging gear and lifting devices be fully inspected before use?



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Mike holds 34 years of progressive experience in wire rope, rigging, and crane operations in various industries. He has developed innovative training techniques, resource materials, workbooks, videos and reference cards which are widely used in the rigging industry today.

## Rigging Training Courses



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