

Overhead cranes, including gantry cranes, are essential in many manufacturing, maintenance and industrial work environments when efficiency is required for lifting and moving heavy loads. Crane operators, riggers and employees that work near overhead cranes need to be aware of the unique hazards of these large machines.

Caught-in/Between, Struck-by/Against, Crane Overloading and Falling Materials are the most common industrial overhead crane hazards.

- All crane operators, riggers and employees who work in the area where overhead cranes are in operation must wear the appropriate PPE, such as hard hats, safety glasses, work gloves and hard-toe boots.
- The hoist operator and rigger should be trained in common crane operation hand signals, especially if there could ever be a situation when voice communications cannot be heard.
- It is important that crane operators and riggers know the load rate. Load markings should be posted on the crane and hoist block. Before the lift, verify that the load is not heavier than the maximum load capacity.

OSHA Standard 1910.179(n)(1) *Size of load. The crane shall not be loaded beyond its rated load...*

- Hoist operators and riggers should not engage in any other behavior while operating the crane that will divert their attention from the lift.
- Controls should not be left unattended while any load is suspended. If it is necessary to leave the controls, for any reason, lower the load first.
- Do not allow any personnel to ride on any load being lifted by a crane or on the crane hook itself.
- Never carry loads over people. Use audible and/or visual warning devices to alert workers in the area so they have the opportunity to move out from under the load.
- There should never be any sudden acceleration or deceleration of the load during the lift. Move crane controls slowly and avoid any abrupt or jerky movements of the load.
- Before lifting, be sure that all loose materials and parts have been removed from the load.

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