



Ironworkers...*On the Safe Side*

Safety and Health Bulletin Dedicated to Servicing Our District Councils, Local Unions and IMPACT Regional Advisory Boards Throughout North America

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Contact: Steve Rank
Executive Director
(202) 383-4829

Contact: Jeff Norris
Canadian Safety Coordinator
(780) 459-4498

Clearing-Up the Hoisting Hooks

The process of hoisting and rigging any structural members, reinforcing steel, or other common materials presents hazards that must be avoided to prevent serious incidents. International Association's **"2017 ZERO Incident"** campaign commissioned by General President Dean includes material handling incidents that is one of the "deadly dozen hazards" that our members face in the shop and field throughout the United States and Canada.

One of the "deadly dozen hazards" that must be recognized pertains to **"clearing up the hooks"** while hoisting the load, lowering the load, and releasing the load after the structural member or reinforcing steel has been set into final position. Turning your back on any rigging equipment during these common erection/placing processes can result in either an Ironworker getting snagged by the hooks, or structural member getting snagged by the hooks. In either case, it is the qualified riggers responsibility to ensure that eye hoisting hooks, shake-out hooks (sorting hooks), or any other equipment is cleared-up.



The "multiple lift rigging procedure" is only one of many situations when eye hoisting hooks must be cleared-up. When performing the "multiple lift rigging procedure" and using various types of rigging assemblies to perform this procedure, the hook-on crew must work together to keep the hooks from snagging adjacent beams. The Ironworkers in the illustration on the left shows the proper technique and safe practice of working together to clear up hooks from the bull tails to avoid serious material handling accidents. One of the specific OSHA Subpart R Steel Erection standards pertaining to rigging states "all loads shall be rigged by a qualified rigger". Clearing up the eye hoisting hooks are no exception. When Ironworkers perform the "multiple lift rigging procedure" there are special training requirements that address the recognition of hazards includes the practice of clearing up the hooks and rigging equipment.

Just as qualified riggers need to clear-up hooks while hoisting multiple lifts, it is equally important for connectors to clear-up the hooks as the beams are being lowered into position. The hooks can easily snag the

Ironworker's safety harness or clothing, or the beam flanges as the load is being lowered. Unfortunately, this has been the primary causation factors in serious incidents.



The connector in the illustration on the left is safely lowering the load and ensuring the hooks do not contact himself or the beams. Training is the keystone of our organization and the Ironworkers National Training Fund has developed a nationally recognized "Qualified Rigger Program" and is working on the development of the "Rigger Certification Program".

These programs are developed and administered under the direction of Lee Worley, Executive Director of the Ironworkers National Training Fund. Many project owners and contractors rely on our members completing these courses and want to verify that training is documented on the Apprenticeship Tracking System (ATS). Following are (2) OSHA requirements contained in the Subpart R – Steel Erection standard that require "special training" for our members when performing this rigging procedure.

In the illustration below, the Ironworkers safely clears-up the eye hoisting hook after releasing the sling from the hoist line. This may seem to be an elementary safety topic to



some, however we regret that several serious incidents have occurred when the hooks were not cleared-up. Our members are rigging thousands of loads every day and each one requires them to clear-up the eye hoisting hooks.

The International Association's "**2017 ZERO Incident**" campaign commissioned by General President Dean will continue to focus on the "deadly dozen hazards" and remind our members to always clear-up the hooks and rigging equipment to prevent serious rigging incidents. We continue to challenge all members to "**See Something - Say Something**" to recognize and avoid workplace health hazards. Jeff Norris, Vicki O'Leary and I will continue to work with District Councils, Local Unions, and IMPACT Regional Advisory Boards to address workplace safety and health issues. Please contact me in the Safety and Health Department at (916) 752-2581, Jeff Norris,

Canadian Safety Coordinator at (780) 459-4498, or Vicki O'Leary, District Representative of Safety/Diversity at (202) 702-7828 if you have any questions pertaining to safety and health issues in the shop or field.

Steve Rank
Executive Director of Safety and Health
Iron Workers International

