

Safe mechanical lifting



Lifting operations typically include use of cranes, winches and forklifts. They can also include lifting of people (e.g. manriding, man-baskets, personnel transfer, mobile elevated work platform).

It is important that lifting operations be planned and performed by competent personnel using certified equipment. To protect people around suspended loads and any mechanical lifting operation, access should be controlled through physical barriers and exclusion zones.

Common dangers include dropped loads, overloading of cranes, lifting equipment failure and falls from height.

Safe Mechanical Lifting

Plan lifting operations and control the area



- I confirm that the equipment and load have been inspected and are fit for purpose
- I only operate equipment that I am qualified to use
- I establish and obey barriers and exclusion zones
- I never walk under a suspended load

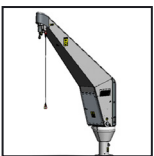
Source: IOGP, Report 459 IOGP Life-Saving Rules

Here are some incidents that have happened to people during mechanical lifting:



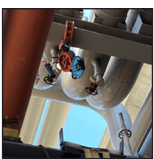
Cranes topple over when basic lifting rules are not followed

Several incidents involving cranes tipping over occurred in the space of a few months. All had the potential to cause fatality. In all cases, the basic rules for lifting operations were not followed.



Incorrect rigging configuration when using davit crane

Technicians were lifting and rigging equipment from a crew transfer vessel (CTV) to a platform. During the lift, one of the technicians inadvertently touched the crane handle. Handle spun at high speed and...



Fatality during mechanical lifting operation

A worker suffered fatal injuries during a mechanical lifting operation after a pulley block failed.



Understanding load balance during forklift operations

A crew was off-loading two vertical pumps using an extended reach fork truck. The first pump was off-loaded successfully but when lifting the second pump, the load became unstable and fell 3 feet.



Forklift mast crushes the cabin, killing the driver

During lifting, the mast of a forklift truck became unhooked and crushed the cabin. The driver died in hospital later that day.

