

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

SAFETY MEETING OUTLINES

Box 700, Frankfort, IL 60423

815-464-0200

No. 18

Vol. 21

Week of 5/1/2023

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

MATERIAL HANDLING

Today's topic is one with which each of you is familiar. Construction work requires material to be handled on a continuous basis. Drywall hangers handle sheetrock, pipefitters fit pipe, carpenters work with two-by-fours and sheets of plywood, ironworkers bolt up steel beams, and as you all know, the list goes on and on. Material is moved all day long from delivery trucks and laydown yards to the work area, back and forth in the work area, and then out of the work area when scrap and waste are collected and disposed of.

Regardless of how the material is moved, your hands and fingers will be involved; take good care of them. A good pair of work gloves will go a long way toward preventing minor hand injuries. Be careful though, sometimes gloves can make it more difficult to grip an object. Watch where you put your hands — gloved or not. Avoid pinch points, slivers, and sharp edges.

Plan your trip. Check the materials that have to be moved. Know their weight and how you will move them. Are your legs and back strong enough? Do you need a hand truck, dolly or pallet jack? Any time you can use a mechanical device to help you, take advantage of it. Another good option is to get a second person to help. Check your path of travel for obstacles. Even a minor slip or stumble could cause an injury or cause you to lose control of the load. Make sure all the flooring, scaffolding, walkways and stairs that you will cross can support the combined weight of you, the load and any truck, dolly, or jack that you may be using.

Often times materials must be moved by crane. This presents a variety of different problems. First you need to know the weight. You must have the proper rigging, and you may even be required to have a signal person. Check overhead for any powerlines or obstructions that may cause a problem with the load or the crane boom. Finally, you need to know where you are going to position the materials once they are flown in. Think through the whole job before you start.

Material handling takes place everyday in our industry. You know what it takes to get the job done safely. Be sure you take your material handling responsibilities seriously.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Remember that lowering is preferable to lifting,
and pushing is preferable to pulling when moving materials.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____