



September 17 — Stop and Assess Before Unhooking

Crane cable had fallen off side of boom while connected to load	Called up to see if it was safe to unhook, it was. Crane operator unhooked and raised boom to get it in correct position. Cable was inspected before work continued.
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A Shift in the Rigging Can Change the Hazard

During a crane operation, the crane cable fell off the side of the boom while it was still connected to the load. Rather than immediately approaching the equipment or attempting to correct the situation, the employee first contacted the crane operator to determine whether it was safe to unhook.

The crane operator confirmed that it was safe to proceed. The load was unhooked, the boom was raised and repositioned, and the cable was inspected before work continued.

When something changes during a lift, don't assume the next step is obvious. Stop, communicate with the operator and anyone involved, and make sure the condition is understood before approaching or adjusting the equipment. A small change in the position of a cable or load can create unexpected movement or stored energy. Taking a moment to reassess can keep a changing situation from becoming a serious one.

Hazards

- Unexpected movement of the load
- Stored energy in crane cable and rigging
- Struck by or caught between hazards
- Improperly positioned crane cable
- Entering the lifting area before it is safe

Words of Wisdom

When something unexpected changes during a lift, the safest next step isn't always the fastest one. Stop, communicate, reassess the condition, and make sure it is safe before proceeding.

Pause and Think

- What should you do when something unexpected happens during a lift?
- Have you confirmed that it is safe before approaching the load?
- Who should you communicate with before making a change to the lift?
- Could the cable or load move unexpectedly?
- Has the equipment or rigging been inspected before work resumes?

Closing Thought

Don't let the pressure to finish the job make you rush the next step. Stop, communicate, assess the hazard, and then proceed safely.