



SHARP START



July 21 — Let the Tool Do the Work

Observed employee moving pipe with hand holding the end of the pipe.	Stopped employee and educated them on the hazards to not do that. Showed them the proper use of a tag line and or no touch tools wheel handling suspended material.
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Your hands should never become the guide for a moving load.

That's exactly why tag lines exist.

While guiding pipe into position, an employee instinctively reached out with their hands to help control the load. Although it may have seemed like the quickest way to make a small adjustment, it placed their hands and body directly in the line of fire if the load shifted, swung, or dropped unexpectedly.

The situation was recognized before anyone was injured, and the crew stopped to use a tag line instead. By allowing the tool to control the load, employees were able to maintain a safe distance while completing the lift.

When we're trying to line something up "just a little," it's natural to want to reach out and help. But suspended loads don't give second chances. Even a small movement can create enough force to crush fingers, trap hands, or knock someone off balance.

Hazards

- Line of fire
- Pinch points
- Suspended loads
- Struck by hazards
- Hand and finger injuries
- Improper load control

Words of Wisdom

Never use your hands where a tag line, positioning tool, or another safe method can do the job. The farther you are from a suspended load, the safer you are.

Pause and Think

- Have you ever been tempted to "just guide it" with your hands?
- Why do suspended loads sometimes move in ways we don't expect?
- What advantages does a tag line provide during lifting operations?
- How can you keep yourself out of the line of fire when positioning a load?
- Are there tasks in your work where the right tool can eliminate the need to put your hands in danger?

Closing Thought

Hands heal slowly—and some injuries never fully heal at all. Keep your distance, trust the proper tools, and never place yourself between a moving load and a fixed object.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something