



April 28 — Right Below It

A worker walked through where we were hoisting stuff up for painting.

Told him not to, and watch where he is going.

Work was underway lifting materials up for painting.

A load was in the air. Rigging under tension. And a worker walked directly through the area below.

He wasn't part of the lift. Just passing through.

Nothing fell. Nothing shifted. But that's not what makes this dangerous.

When a load is suspended, gravity is already in play. The weight is off the ground, and anything that changes even slightly can send that energy down fast. And once it moves, there's no time to react.

The worker may not have realized what was happening overhead. Or maybe he thought he had enough time.

That's how people end up in the line of fire. Not because they don't know but because they move through a space without fully recognizing the risk above them.

The worker was stopped and redirected.

This wasn't about the lift going wrong. It was about being in the wrong place while it was happening.

Hazards

- Struck-by from falling or dropped load
- Load shift or swing
- Rigging or equipment failure
- Crushing injuries
- Uncontrolled overhead hazards
- Line of fire exposure to gravity energy

Stats

- Dropped objects are a major cause of serious injuries
- Many incidents occur during routine lifting operations
- Workers in the drop zone have little to no reaction time

Words of Wisdom

- Never walk under a load
- If it's overhead, it's a hazard
- The safest path is the one that goes around.

Pause and Think

When you're moving through a job site, it's easy to focus on where you're going not what's happening above you. You've walked that path before. It feels familiar.

But work zones change constantly.

What was safe a minute ago may not be safe now.

And when lifting is involved, the hazard isn't always at eye level it's above you.

- Do I check for overhead work before walking through an area?
- Am I taking the shortest path instead of the safest one?
- Would I stop if I saw a lift happening above me?
- Am I aware of what's happening around and above me?