



## April 1 — Under the Load

**Observed a person walk underneath a load in the air.**

**Hollered at him and told him there is a load over his head - but he kept walking.**

While a lift was in progress, a worker walked directly under a suspended load. He was warned that the load was overhead, but kept moving anyway.

Nothing failed. The rigging held. The lift went as planned. But that's not where the risk was.

Suspended loads carry gravity energy. If anything changes a shift, a slip, or a failure that energy is released instantly. There is no reaction time, no warning, and no second chance once you're underneath it.

The system worked. The equipment worked.

The exposure came from stepping into the line of fire.

And moments like this usually don't come from not knowing better. They come from familiarity.

We've seen lifts before. Walked near them before. Nothing happened last time, so the risk starts to feel smaller than it really is. Add a little urgency trying to get somewhere quicker and it becomes easy to justify cutting straight through.

That's how awareness fades, and small decisions turn into big exposure.

### Hazards

- Struck-by hazard from falling or shifting load
- Crushing injuries from suspended materials
- Load swing or unexpected movement
- Rigging or equipment failure
- Fatal head or upper body trauma
- Line of fire exposure to gravity energy

### Stats

- Struck-by incidents are one of OSHA's **Fatal Four**, causing hundreds of deaths each year
- Suspended load incidents often result in **severe or fatal injuries**
- Many struck-by events occur during **routine lifting operations**
- Workers in the drop zone have little to **no chance to react**.

### Words of Wisdom

- If it's hanging don't stand under it
- The shortest path isn't always the safest one
- Just because nothing happened last time doesn't mean it won't this time

### Pause and Think

Working around lifts can start to feel routine. The more often we see something without an incident, the more comfortable we become with it. That comfort can turn into confidence and that confidence can lead to decisions we wouldn't normally make.

And once you step into that space, you've already given up your margin for error.

- Do I ever take shortcuts through active work areas?
- Am I paying attention to overhead hazards, or just my task?
- Would I stop someone else from walking into a lift zone?
- Am I trusting routine more than reality?