



***Discussion leader duties for this session:***

Take note of what material handling equipment is on this job site, and think of the safety rules that apply to it.

***What this Safety Talk covers:***

Some cautions for working on and around material handling equipment.

***Discussion notes :***

## **060: Material Handling Equipment**

### ***Palletizers, conveyors and conveying equipment***

Don't walk on a conveyor as a shortcut. The rollers or belt may be an unstable surface.

Don't step on a palletizing platform unless you have first used lockout/tagout.

Never reach into the work area of a palletizer if it's in service.

### ***Overhead traveling cranes, hoists, and monorail systems***

Don't walk under the load.

If you must be in the area, watch the operator or signalman as well as the load.

### ***Industrial truck, tractors, trailers and stacker machinery***

You must be qualified to drive a lift truck and licensed to operate a tractor/trailer.

Chock the wheels before loading or unloading freight from a trailer backed into a loading dock, no matter how quickly you need to get at that motor or panelboard for which you've been waiting.

### ***Picking and sorting systems***

Watch out for mechanical arms. These usually are not equipped to sense human fingers that get in their way.

### ***Infrared scanners and readers, and wireless equipment***

Don't look at the light source of a scanner.

If the communications system uses fiber optics, don't look into the end of a disconnected fiber cable. It may be carrying light you can't see, and that light can render you blind.

### ***Docks, dock lifts, dock plates, dock levelers***

Operate the associated equipment only if you are familiar with it.

Be careful to avoid getting hands or feet trapped in the devices.

### ***Storage bins, shelves, and racks***

Observe maximum loads for all storage devices. This maximum includes weight and the number of units stacked on each other.

If loading raceway onto a rack, observe the maximum load per tier.

If unloading raceway from a rack, take care not to jostle the other loads into falling.

Look for weaknesses. For example, look for bent or cracked arms on storage racks. Look for missing hardware on shelving. Report deficiencies to your foreman, rather than leaving materials on unsafe equipment and risking the possibility of those materials falling on you or a coworker.

### ***General cautions***

Material handling equipment comes in endless variations to satisfy many purposes. If you are unfamiliar with a piece of material handling equipment, ask some-

