



ILA-UMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2018-03 (15 March 2018)

Suspended [Overhead] Loads



The ILA-UMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC) would like to raise a little awareness in the minds of workers and managers, about the very real risks associated with being caught in the footprint of a load passing overhead. OSHA recognizes those risks and has regulated potential exposures to them, both aboard vessels and ashore:

1918.81 (k) & 1917.13 (h) The employer shall require that employees stay clear of the area beneath overhead drafts or descending lifting gear.

1918.85 (e) *Suspended containers.* The employer shall prohibit employees from working beneath a suspended container.

As the photo above suggests, in the unlikely (but certainly possible) event of the container passing over the head of the lasher becoming a free-falling object... the worker wouldn't have much of a chance for survival. Moreover, falling semi-automatic twistlocks have occurred more times in the past than we care to remember. For obvious reasons, we urge you to not get hit by one!

And while an empty container crane spreader may not technically qualify as “a draft” or “a load”, we all appreciate that spreader components (including flippers) have, in the past, become disconnected and have fallen. They, too, can easily become deadly.

Plan, manage and conduct operations in a way that avoids these overhead hazards.

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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