

Job site: _____
 Foreman: _____

Date: _____
 G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense

Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Come-A-Longs & Chain Hoist Safety

- Moving large, heavy loads is crucial to today's manufacturing and construction industries. Typical hoisting operations for sheet metal workers may include hoisting pipe or duct into position for welding or bolting, or moving machinery.
- Come-a-longs and chain hoists are relatively simple to operate, but misuse can result in sudden failure, property damage, and injury.
- Before using a hoist, inspect it to make sure it is in good condition. Check for bent handles, stretched chain locks, broken ratchet teeth, or bent hooks. These signs indicate that the hoist was at one time overloaded. Do not use any hoist that appears to have been overloaded.
- Know the weight of the load you plan to lift, and never attach a load greater than the capacity of hoist. Do not try to use two hoists to lift a load that is heavier than the rated capacity of either. The load could shift, placing the entire load onto one hoist and causing stress or failure.
- A sure sign that a hoist is overloaded is if one person using a normal pull cannot move the load. Do not use "cheater bars" on the operating lever and do not use more than one person to pull the lever.
- Use come-a-longs and chain hoists only in locations where you are able to stand clear of the load at all times, and that will not expose you to a hazard in the event that you lose your grip.
- Never operate a hoist in a manner that could cause the load chain to bend or slide around obstacles, such as corners or sharp edges.
- Do not use load chains or cables as a substitute for a sling.
- Be sure to apply loads evenly to avoid any violent motion or shock. Always make sure that the load is centered on the hoist before lifting to avoid it from swinging, jerking, or bouncing.

Instructor Tips

- **Remind workers that capacity ratings are based on new hoists, and that age, dirt, wear, and improper maintenance will reduce the lifting capacity.**
- **Emphasize to workers to never leave a suspended load unattended, and to never work or walk under a suspended load.**

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