

ONE POINT LESSON

Lesson Title: Blocking a Suspended Forklift / Crane Load

Date:

Provided by Company Name:

Contact:

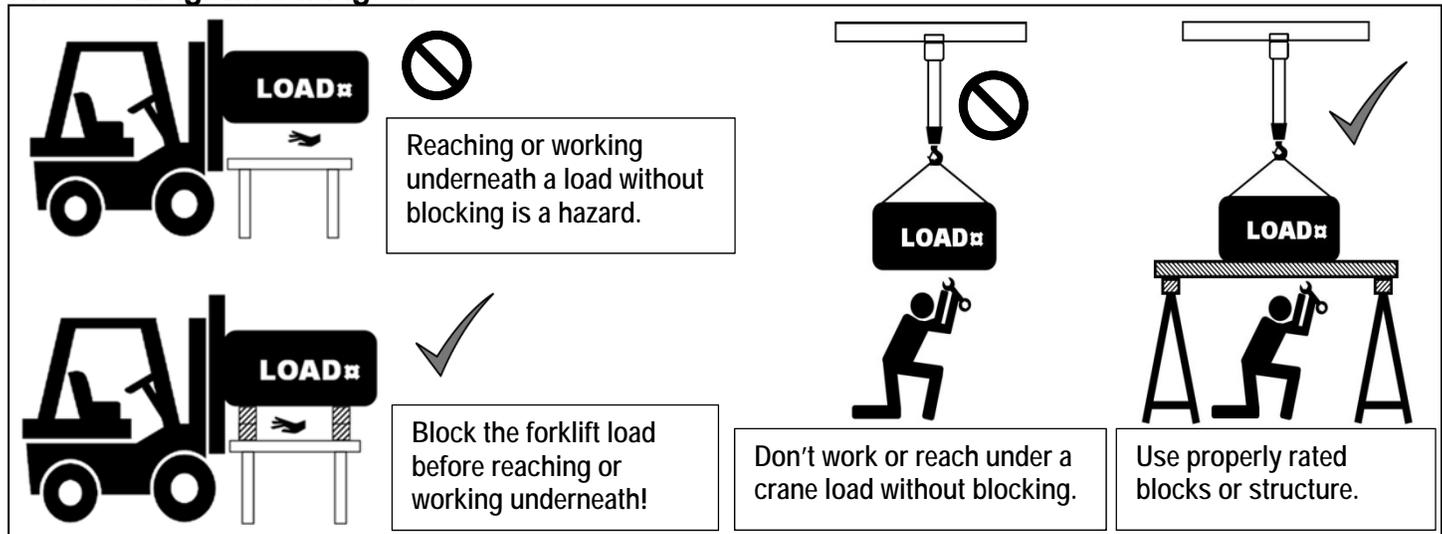
Summary:

Working or reaching underneath a crane or forklift load is a dangerous practice. This can cause a severe pinch, amputation, crushing, or fatal injury. Think about working underneath a car with only a carjack to hold it up! The carjack is not a safety device, and is only for raising and lowering the car. The same is true for forklifts and cranes. They are used for raising, lowering, and moving loads. They are not designed for safely working or reaching under the load. "Blocking" the load is necessary to support the load and create a safe zone underneath for reaching or working.

Undesirable Condition / Practice:

1. Working or reaching underneath a suspended forklift or crane load. This area is a pinch or crush zone.
2. Forklifts and cranes can malfunction, drift down, or move to create a hazard underneath the load.
3. Using blocks or supports that are inadequate, unstable, or not rated to support the load.
4. Forklifts and cranes should never be used as a safety device to support a load for working or reaching underneath.
5. Suspending a load by forklift or crane over personnel is not permitted by MIOSHA (OSHA).

Photos/ Diagrams/ Images:



Corrected / Proper Condition / Practice / Benefits:

1. Always block a suspended load before working or reaching underneath.
Blocking is the primary safety method to support a forklift or crane load for reaching or working underneath.
2. Use a stable arrangement of hardwood blocks, wedges, safety blocks, or a structure **that reliably protects workers** underneath.
3. **Eliminate the need** to reach or work under a suspended load by changing the method when ever possible.
4. Reliable blocking and support of a suspended crane or forklift load ensures that pinch and crush hazards are controlled.
5. Conduct a **job safety analysis (JSA)** to assess hazards and develop effective control measures.

MIOSHA GI Part 18, Rule 1865 (1), [OSHA 1910.179 (n)(3) (vi)]: "An operator of a crane shall not carry a load over another employee."

MIOSHA GI Part 21, Rule 2172 (1), [OSHA 1910.178 (m)(2)]: "An operator (forklift) shall not allow anyone to stand or pass under the elevated portion of any powered industrial truck, whether loaded or empty."

