

Material Handling Equipment

- We depend on material handling equipment every day to keep the job site safe and efficient.
- However, this equipment can be dangerous, especially when it's not in proper working order.
- A quick but careful pre-use inspection can prevent injuries and inconvenience.

General Tips for Pre-Use Inspections

- Visually examine the equipment from the ground up.
- Test the equipment's operation before handling a load.
- Use a checklist created for the equipment you'll be using.
- Report all problems so a qualified person can fix them before the equipment is used.

Inspecting Jacks

- Visually inspect the wheels, forks, hydraulic system and hand guards.
- Check the battery power and connection on powered jacks.
- Test the steering, brakes and fork operations.

Inspecting Forklifts

- Look for damage to the tires so the load capacity isn't affected. Check the air pressure and secure the lug nuts.
- Inspect the carriage, forks, hydraulics, boom, frame and overhead guard.
- Check the levels of oil, gas, hydraulic fluid and radiator fluid.
- Operate the forklift to see if anything feels, sounds or looks out of place.

Inspecting Lifts

- Start from the ground up and inspect the whole lift.
- Make sure all moving parts—including mast hoist, load hoist and pulleys—are lubricated.
- Test the operation, making sure the mast is secure and the ratchet brake mechanisms are working.

Inspecting Cranes

- Examine the crane's exterior from the tires/tread to the top of the frame.
- Inspect the hooks, load lines, trolley, bridge and boom from the operator's station.
- Check all fluid levels and hydraulic systems.
- Start the crane and verify that all gauges, alarms, brakes and controls are safe to use.

Inspecting Hoists

- Make sure the hoist is secured properly, and give it a thorough visual inspection.
- Verify that load-bearing parts and safety devices have not been damaged.
- Test the operation and upper-limit device.

Inspecting Rigging Accessories

- Check the load limit to ensure it's strong enough for the job.
- Look for any signs of damage or weakness. Even a single weak link or a few damaged strands of rope can cause accidents.
- Be aware of abnormal wear, including broken wires, stretching, fraying, abrasions, heat damage, knots and discoloration.
- Don't use a wire rope if you see five or more broken wires in the rope, or three or more broken wires in a single strand of the rope.
- Many nylon slings have a red warning thread embedded in the weave. If the thread is exposed, the sling is worn-out and should not be used.
- If you're unsure about whether a sling, chain, wire rope or other rigging accessory is safe, have a qualified person inspect it before use.