

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Suspended Load

During a capital upgrade project, a company was contracted for a catwalk installation in the debarker building. When they attempted to vertically hoist a section of catwalk into a balanced position, the existing ductwork blocked the way.

After lowering the frame to the ground and readjusting the rigging, they resumed hoisting the frame at an angle to clear the obstruction.

During this process, one of the contract workers passed underneath the suspended load. When they were almost clear of the frame, the rigging gave way and the catwalk suddenly dropped striking the worker.

The contract worker sustained moderate injuries.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Never walk under a suspended load. Use tag lines, caution tape and follow designated travel paths.
- Ensure those handling lifting and rigging tasks are properly trained.
- Conduct pre-work hazard assessments and lift plans to identify and control hazards.
- Identify high-risk tasks and provide supervision, observation and site inspections.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Establish control zones during lifting to restrict access and maintain a safe distance from the lifting area.

