

◀ HEALTH & SAFETY ALERT ▶

Safe Use of Lifting Equipment



There have recently been a number of lifting related incidents including a skip being dropped, loads becoming unstable during lifts and cranes coming into contact with infrastructure and other equipment. Whilst the causes of these incidents will be communicated at a later date, it is still important to remember **the Golden Rules concerning lifting operations:**

- Never lift unsecured loads
- Never exceed the operating limits of any piece of lifting equipment
- Never use any piece of lifting equipment unless it has been appropriately inspected and tested
- Never lift unless the ground / foundation has been assessed or designed by a competent person.

In addition:

- All lifting operations should be planned so they can be carried out safely
- Lifting plans should ensure that the lifting equipment remains safe for the range of lifting operations to be carried out
- Lifting operations must be planned carefully to ensure they can be carried out safely
- Lifting plans should result in a safe system of work which may need to be written down if it is a complex lift

Key elements of lifting plans include:

- Planning – including site preparation, crane erection and dismantling
- Selection, provision and use of a suitable crane and work equipment
- Safe slinging and signalling arrangements
- Maintenance and examination of the crane and equipment
- Provision of properly trained and competent personnel
- Supervision of operations by trained and competent personnel
- Preventing unauthorised movement or use of the crane
- Measures to secure safety of persons not involved in the lifting

Remember – if in doubt, stop the operation and check!

