Toolbox talk - Lift Time Details for Safety (Part 2)

Immediately prior to a load being lifted by a crane or derrick several specific details require your attention including identifying obstructions, clearing the area and communicating with the operator.

- Consider where the load will be delivered in relation to where it will be rigged.
- Look carefully for any obstructions that may be in the path of the load as it is lifted and moved. Be especially alert for overhead power lines.
- When you identify an obstruction, communicate with the operator. Make sure he knows about it.
- Before the lift, clear the workers and others in the work area as much as possible from the lift area, and the path beneath where the load will travel.
- Make sure that a signal has been established for the workers in the area so that they will know when the lift is about to take place.
- Ensure that only one signal person will be communicating with the operator.
- Regardless of the type of communication you will be using, be sure that you know the standard hand signals in case other forms of communication break down.
- If you will be communicating with the operator by voice, make sure that both of you will be using the same standard voice signals.