

# 2008 Monthly E&H Campaign: February

## The Proper Use & Maintenance of a Capstan Hoist

### Monday, 11th

The mechanical advantage that the capstan hoist provides makes it an indispensable tool in the Communications industry. However, this equipment presents unique safety challenges during operation. Using a Capstan Hoist demands specific training appropriate planning, and competent execution to ensure a safe job site. Experience has proven that whenever one or more of these elements is missing the results are often disastrous. Inadequate inspections, poorly maintained equipment, and operator error are all common causes of capstan related accidents. Failure to effectively plan lifts leads to uncontrolled hazards. Personnel injury or damage to equipment are likely consequences. Misuse of this equipment can get expensive on many levels very quickly.

Properly planned and executed hoisting operations by a competent operator is one of the areas to be evaluated when performing a site safety assessment. As the focus item for Week 7 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Safety Campaign, the expectation is that field personnel completing site assessments apply additional focus to site where a capstan hoist is in use. Be sure you are familiar with the sections of the Telecommunications Overhead Lifting and Rigging Operations SWPP (4MP-T81-01906) pertaining to capstan hoist operations as well as reviewing the required on site documentation.

Use this opportunity to verify the operators training, employer's training documentation practices, and the required annual equipment inspection records. Ensure that the Capstan Operation Planning Form (4MP-T81-01906 – Exhibit E) has been completed and reviewed with all employees on site and that the Capstan Daily Workshift Inspection Checklist (4MP-T81-01906 – Exhibit H) has been completed along with an inspection of all rigging to be used in the lift. Ensure that all of the required personal protective equipment is in use and that a proper drop zone has been identified and properly barricaded. Finally, spend some time observing the crew. Confirm safe practices by looking for unsafe behaviors. Be alert for common mistakes such as the operator leaving an elevated load unattended or workers walking under a suspended load. Reference the SubContractor Safety and Health Program, Section 5.6 Cranes and Rigging Operations and Attachment 5-10 and 5-15 for additional information.

[Click Here](#) to review a copy of the Communications Overhead Lifting and Rigging Operations SWPP (4MP-T81-01906)

[Click Here](#) to download a copy of the Capstan Operation Planning Form (Attachment 5-10)

[Click Here](#) to download a copy of the Capstan Daily Workshift Inspection Checklist (Attachment 5-15)

[Click Here](#) to download a copy of the Field Safe Practices and Conditions Compliance Assessment Form (Attachment 4-5)



Visit the Communications E&H website for more information.