

TOOLBOX TALK

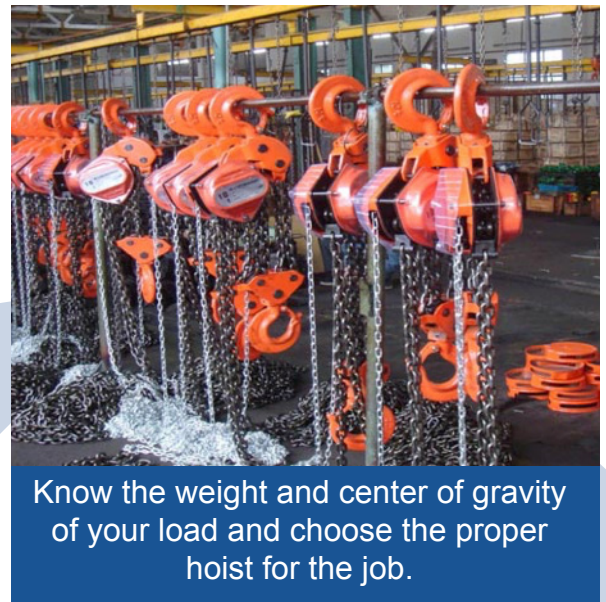
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OVERHEAD MANUAL CHAIN HOIST SAFETY

Manual chain hoists are versatile tools that make handling heavy loads safer and easier. To lift a load, the operator pulls down on the hand chain. This turns a drive wheel and axle in the housing. Inside the housing are multiple gears that increase the mechanical work of pulling the hand chain by dozens of times.

Most chain hoist lifting mechanisms have a ratchet and braking system that prevents the load from slipping but allows the operator to lower the load by pulling the other side of the hand chain.

As with any other piece of equipment, read and follow the operator's manual for safe and proper use of the hoist. Visual inspections of hoists are required before each use and additional regular and periodic inspections are required throughout the year.



Know the weight and center of gravity of your load and choose the proper hoist for the job.

Take the hoist out of service if the hooks are:

- ◆ Bent,
- ◆ Worn,
- ◆ Twisted, or
- ◆ If latch does not engage the throat opening of the hook.

Here are a few general safety guidelines to keep in mind:

- ◆ Do not attempt to lengthen or repair the lifting chain.
- ◆ Do not wrap the lifting chain around the load.
- ◆ Do not use an overhead manual chain hoist to lift or support people.
- ◆ Do not allow a welding electrode to be touched to the lifting chain, or the hooks, or any other part of the overhead manual chain hoist.
- ◆ Do not allow anyone under a suspended load.