



# GOOD CATCH from **The American Club**

## GRAVITY IS NOT ALWAYS FRIENDLY

**Question:** What do these objects have in common?

- 1-meter diameter steel pipe
- Grease gun
- Twistlock
- Man lift
- Bundle of steel rebar
- Flashlight
- Shipping container
- Cell phone
- Wrench
- Hammer
- 55-gallon drum of oil
- Steel coil

**Answer:** They were all dropped and injured someone below.

### Actual Damage

Numerous mariners and stevedores have been injured from suspended loads that were dropped and from objects accidentally dropped by someone working above. In some cases, the injuries were fatal.

There is no way to avoid gravity. So, extreme care is needed when cargo is being offloaded by cranes and when anyone is working aloft.



# How can these incidents be prevented?

During operations involving cranes for cargo, ship's stores, or any other suspended load:

- ★ Never stand or walk under a suspended load. Walk on the outboard side of the ship or wait until the lift is done.
- ★ If it is absolutely necessary (and not just convenient) to move under a suspended load, get permission from the person in charge and make sure the crane operator is aware that you will be moving under the load. Then, move quickly and limit time under the load.
- ★ Wear a properly fitted hardhat or Multi-directional Impact Protection System (MIPS) safety helmet.
- ★ Wear a clean, high-visibility vest to make it easier for the crane operator to see you.
- ★ Use barriers and signs to create a safety zone under the lift.
- ★ Address safety during the planning of each lift.
- ★ Stay alert to all crane operations.
- ★ Use spotters during crane lifts.
- ★ Be especially cautious at night when lighting may not fully illuminate the suspended load. Avoid standing or working in shadows that make it harder for you to be seen by the crane operator.

When someone is working aloft, whether topside or in the engine room:

- ★ Never stand under someone working above you.
- ★ Ensure the tools being used above are secured by lanyards.
- ★ Use barriers and signs to create a safety zone under the work area.
- ★ Ensure the job safety assessment or toolbox meeting addresses the risks from falling objects.
- ★ Wear all appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including a hardhat or helmet.



When you identify a hazard before something goes wrong...

**it's a Good Catch.**

When you stop an operation before something bad happens...

**it's a Good Catch.**

When you recognize and avoid being under a suspended load  
or person working aloft...

**that's a Good Catch, too!**



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