Ask the following questions and give time for answers.

**What are the hazards of working around (suspended or moving) loads?** Loads releasing onto workers from trucks or storage areas, materials dropped on workers while loading trucks or unstrapping loads

**What are the results?** Crushed or broken limbs, head injuries, amputations, death

**What should we look for?** Poorly stacked building materials, lopsided loads on trucks, loads not properly tied down, materials being lifted by cranes near work areas.

**Actual Incident:** A 45-year-old crane operator died while rigging a load. A tractor-trailer driver unstrapped the load to ready it for lifting. The operator climbed onto the load during rigging and it rolled off the trailer and crushed him. The tractor-trailer driver was not at a meeting earlier that day where drivers were told that their loads had to be kept strapped.

Ask the following question and ensure every item is covered.

**How do we prevent these results?**

- Keep workers who are not involved in loading or unloading clear of loading areas.

- Load materials for maximum stability. Distribute weight evenly and keep materials level. Secure loads following safe and appropriate industry practices.

- Consider having a competent person inspect incoming freight to identify those that pose serious hazards during unloading.

- Nail 2x4 boards to the floor of cargo areas to secure equipment with wheels.

- Make sure cargo does not restrict driver’s vision, free motion, exit from the vehicle, or access to emergency supplies.

- Stack and store materials with no more than a 4:1 height to base ratio and keep materials back from the edge.

- Perform rigging only if you are qualified. Choose the right equipment and inspect it prior to each use. Tag and take defective rigging equipment out of service!

- Each day before use, slings and all fastenings and attachments shall be inspected for damage or defects by a competent person designated by the employer.