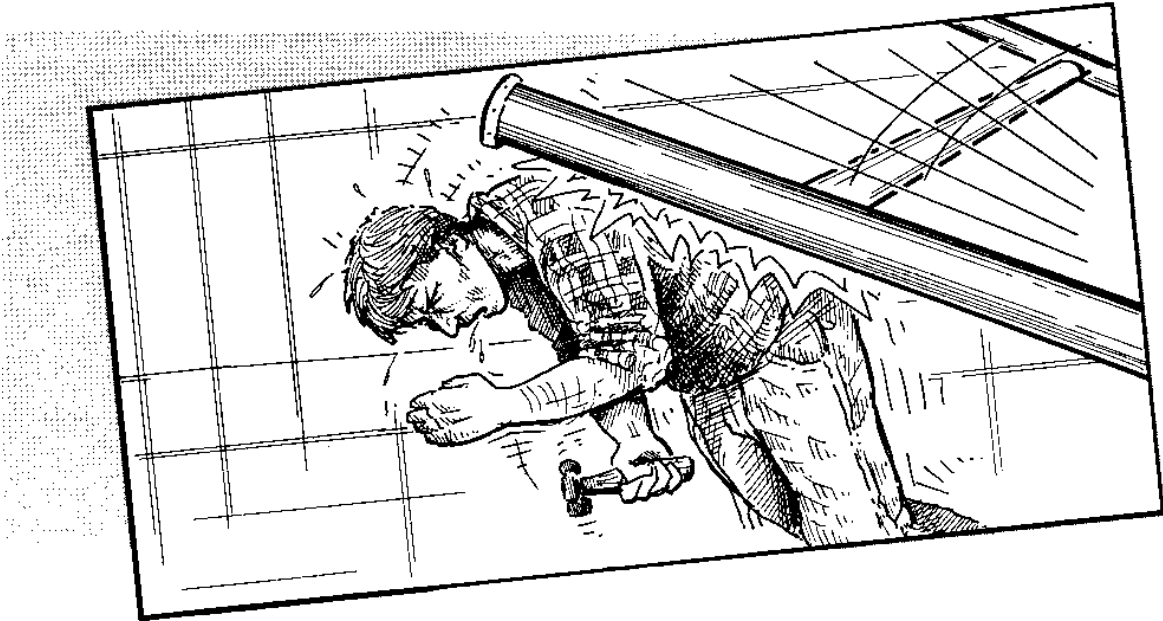


Work **Safe!** Bulletin

HOIST/SLING DANGERS

Bulletin No.: 132



A worker was fatally injured when struck by a falling steel fabricated roof truss. This worker had been working with three other workers repositioning the truss in a steel fabrication shop.

During the repositioning of the truss, a hook in one of the slings worked itself free allowing the truss to fall and strike the worker on the head.

The Workplace Safety and Health Division investigation revealed two dangerous hoisting practices:

- the use of improper hoisting slings with non-rated chain, and
- the use of hooks without safety latches.

Under The Workplace Safety and Health Act, Section 4(2)(a), it is the employer's responsibility to maintain necessary equipment that is safe and without risks to workers. All chains and connectors must be rated as to capacity and approved by the manufacturer for overhead hoisting. In general, such equipment is stamped with a letter and number to indicate that it is rated hoisting chain.

It is also essential that all hoisting slings are rigged to safely secure loads being lifted. A positive means of securing hooks, shackles, etc. to the load must be used when rigging the load.

Safe rigging practices can best be accomplished by ensuring that all affected workers are properly trained in hoisting procedures.