

TEXAS MUTUAL SAFETY ALERT

FEB 2018

As a service to our policyholders, Texas Mutual shares common workplace injuries reported to our claims department. Our goal is to help you ensure these types of incidents do not happen in your workplace. Find tips and suggested e-Learning training courses below to help keep your employees safe on the job.

If you have questions, we encourage you to call our safety services support center at **844-WORKSAFE (967-5723)** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST.

IN THIS ALERT

- Skylights
- Rigging

STEPPING AROUND SKYLIGHTS

A new employee was asked to gather materials from the roof where the crew had been working. He was later found on the ground, underneath a skylight. In another incident, an employee had removed a skylight from the roof and laid insulation over the opening. The employee accidentally stepped onto the insulation and fell through.



Over the past couple of months, Texas Mutual has received several catastrophic claims from falling through skylights.

! Safety tips:

- Never sit on, lean against or step on a skylight. They are not designed to support your weight, and often become brittle over time from exposure to outdoor elements such as ultraviolet rays.
- If you are removing a skylight, securely cover or guard it any time you leave the work area.
- Alert a supervisor if you see that a skylight is not guarded by some type of cover or railing or if there are any defects in the guard.
- Always wear personal fall protection as instructed and make sure that you are tied off correctly. You should also inspect your fall protection equipment before each use and report any damages.
- Practice proper housekeeping, such as cleaning up debris and putting away unused tools and materials throughout the day.

e-Learning course suggestions:

Fall Prevention and Protection
Slips, Trips, and Falls
Floor and Walkway Safety and Auditing

WORKING WITH CRANES

Whether you are the operator or working in the surrounding area, cranes can present some very serious hazards. Texas Mutual has already seen at least two serious incidents this year. In one incident, a crane operator had picked up a load, but the load detached and struck the operator's cab. The operator attempted to jump out of the way, but suffered fatal injuries. In a second incident, a mobile crane was attempting to lift a concrete wall when one of the chains snapped, causing the load to fall. The entire crane overturned while employees ran to get out of the way. Luckily, there were only minor injuries.

Rigging workers have one of the most crucial jobs when it comes to crane operations. Failure to use the appropriate equipment, not knowing the load amount or crane capacity and improper load connection could have devastating consequences. Only employees properly trained on hazards and procedures should be involved with rigging.



e-Learning course suggestions:

Crane and Hoist Rigging Safety
Overhead Crane Basics
Overhead Crane Operational Safety

Safety tips:

- Always inspect rigging equipment prior to use. If there are any defects or if you are unsure that the rigging capacity matches the load, talk to your supervisor.
- Inspect the area where the crane is operating and make sure that the surface is level and firm enough to withstand the overall weight.
- Ensure that the load is equally distributed among the points of support.
- Remove jewelry and wear proper personal protective equipment, including a hard hat and gloves.
- Keep your body clear of any loads during the lift and never walk under a suspended load.
- Maintain and store rigging equipment according to manufacturer directions.

GET FREE SAFETY RESOURCES

Texas Mutual policyholders have access to thousands of free training materials in our multimedia safety resource center, including 200 free e-Learning online training courses. With e-Learning, you can assign safety courses to your employees to help train them and keep them safe.

To access the free materials, log into your [texasmutual.com](https://www.texasmutual.com) account and select safety resources. If you need help accessing the safety resource center or you have a workplace safety question, call us toll-free at **844-WORKSAFE (967-5723)**.