

# HAZARD ALERT

## DON'T EXCEED A HOIST'S SAFE WORKING LOAD

*A worker was lifting a trailer with his chain falls and had the lift hook on the trailer hitch. The lift hook came apart from the socket on the lift chain, causing the trailer hitch to fall and crush the worker's foot.*

Hoists are used for lifting and moving material. Like any other piece of equipment, there are a number of safety hazards associated with their use. However, these hazards can be mitigated by using basic hoisting safety practices and by following proper procedures.

### Recommended Preventive Action

- Read the hoist manufacturer's operating manual and maintenance instructions.
- Ensure all hoist operators and signallers are trained and familiar with the operating controls, procedures and warnings.
- Inspect the hoisting apparatus before use and record the results in a logbook.
- Check for damage, wear and proper operation of all functions. Replace damaged or worn parts.
- Ensure proper equipment is used during lifts.
- Ensure a hoist is not subjected to loads exceeding its safe working load.
- Ensure the safe working load is legibly posted on the hoisting apparatus.
- Never position any part of your body under a suspended load.

