



## ***SAFETY ALERT # 6***



*Week of October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2005*

*In the interest of keeping everyone safe CAMSAFETY will be sharing injury information with preliminary root cause analysis. This information is intended to make you think not assess blame. If you have an incident that you would like to share send us the information and we will pass it along.*

### **What Happened**

One of our fellow CAM members has experienced their third injury this year related to manually lowering equipment or material while using a manila rope.

- In the first case an employee was lowering a 75 pound wood box, approximately 20' to a lower level when his shoulder popped. The employee was sent to the hospital and was diagnosed with a rotator cuff tear.
- In the second incident an employee was lowering a 2 x 4 with a rope, approximately 25' to the ground when he lost the load and the 2 x 4 struck an employees ring finger who was standing at the ground level. Fortunately the employees finger was saved by a competent physician.
- In the 3rd incident an employee was lowering a wheel barrel 3 stories. The load was being lowered to an employee on the 2nd floor when the employee at the top level lost the load, the rope wrapped around the thumb of the worker on the 2nd floor. Again, the injury was serious but a competent physician saved his thumb.

### **Lessons Learned**

What load is safe to lower this way without placing employees in compromising situations? Lifting studies reveal that the majority of the adult population should be able to lift 55 lbs. without undo stress. However, when lowering loads greater forces are applied and therefore, greater precautions are necessary.

Everyone agrees that additional precautions can and should be considered whenever equipment and/or materials need to be lowered in this manner. A retractable lifelines may be an option as a safety device while lowering the load. (*The Retractable can then **only** be used for material lowering and must be red tagged from employee use.*) Also, with advance planning, pulley systems or chain falls can be setup in advance.

The significant cost in quality of life among the above three fellow workers alone constitutes the importance of safety management being engaged in this type of work activity. Management drives the process; what is your process?

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