

## Longshoring and Marine Terminals Safety Talk

Staying safe on the job isn't just about rules, it's about making sure everyone gets home at the end of the day. The work can be tough, the environments demanding, and the pace fast, but the right precautions keep things running smoothly and protect lives. From the gear worn to the way loads are lifted, every detail matters. That's why it's important to look at the major hazards faced in longshoring and marine terminal operations, and the straightforward but effective controls that help keep those risks at bay.

### Major Hazards and Controls

#### 1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- PPE must be supplied at no cost to employees.
- Examples include protective helmets, eye and face protection, and safety footwear.
- All PPE must comply with applicable consensus standards such as ANSI and ASTM.
- Equipment must remain clean, serviceable, and replaced immediately if damaged or worn.

#### 2. Fall Hazards and Edge Protection

- Workers frequently face risks when positioned near unprotected edges, container tops, open hatches, or elevated platforms.
- OSHA defines fall hazards according to specific height and distance criteria.
- Protection methods include guardrails, harness systems, and secured fall-arrest equipment.

#### 3. Vertical Tandem Lifts (VTLs)

- VTLs involve lifting two interlocked containers simultaneously.
- The practice presents hazards related to load stability, crane rigging, and equipment strain.
- It's important to know when VTLs may be used and how to perform them safely.

#### 4. Loose Gear Safety

- Loose gear includes shackles, hatch beams, strongbacks, and similar components.
- All gear must undergo inspection before use and remain in sound condition.
- Certification requirements apply where relevant.



## 5. Safe Access

- Gangways, ramps, and dockboards must be stable, properly designed, and free from damage.
- Slips, trips, and falls are common incidents; therefore, surfaces must be well maintained, illuminated, and kept clear of obstructions.

## 6. Training and Oversight

- Training in safe work practices under marine cargo handling regulations is mandatory.
- Supervisors are responsible for enforcing rules, monitoring conditions, and ensuring the correct use of PPE and equipment.

## Practical Safety Measures

- Conduct pre-shift inspections of gear, surfaces, and equipment.
- Verify load weights, balance, and rigging integrity prior to crane or hoist operations.
- Maintain clear communication through radios, agreed signals, or hand gestures.
- Replace PPE immediately when signs of wear appear.
- Adjust operations in response to weather conditions such as rain, wind, fog, or ice that reduce visibility or footing.

## Summary

At the end of the day, safety isn't just about compliance, it's about looking out for one another. When protective gear is used correctly, equipment is kept in good condition, and everyone stays alert to changing conditions, the job gets done right and without unnecessary risks. Remember, safe habits leads to safe crews.

## Discussion Points

1. *What hazard in the current work area presents the greatest concern?*
2. *what corrective measure can eliminate or reduce that hazard?*