

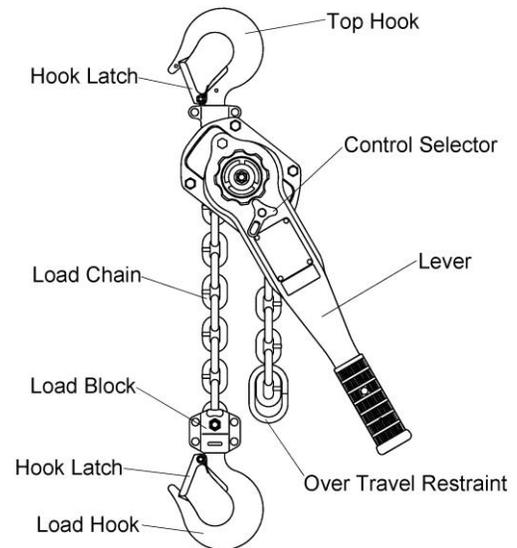
## Safety Sheet No. 13: General Safety Guidance for Lever Hoists

Fatalities or injuries can occur if lever hoists are not inspected and properly used. Fatalities or injuries may occur when workers use a lever hoist

- (a) in a way for which it was not intended,
- (b) that is damaged or malfunctioning, and
- (c) to lift or pull more than the hoist's rated capacity.

Employers are responsible for training operators on the safe use of this equipment.

The following is general safety guidance for lever hoist operators.



- Use your experience, knowledge, and training to assess risks and follow procedures.
- Before operating a lever hoist read the manual and understand how to safely and properly use the lever hoist.
- Inspect lever hoists before use.
- Do not operate a lever hoist that is damaged or has any actual or suspected malfunction. Report any hoist with actual or suspected malfunction or damage to your supervisor.
- Do not attempt to lengthen or repair the lifting medium (chain, wire rope or web strap).
- Do not wrap the lifting medium (chain, wire rope or web strap) around the load or item being pulled or tensioned.
- Do not use a lever hoist to lift or support people.
- Do not operate if the lever hoist, its lifting medium (chain, wire rope or web strap), and its hooks are restricted from forming a straight line from hook to hook in the direction of loading.
- Do not use a lever hoist in a way that causes its hooks to be side loaded.
- Do not support the load on the tip of a hook unless the hook is designed for tip loading.
- Do not use the lifting medium (chain, wire rope or web strap), or the hooks, or any other part of the lever hoist as a ground for welding.
- Do not allow a welding electrode to be touched to the lifting medium (chain, wire rope or web strap), or the hooks, or any other part of the lever hoist.
- Do not remove or obscure any warning labels on the lever hoist.
- Do not allow anyone under a suspended load, or anyone other than the operator within proximity to a load under tension.

For further information, consult ASME B30.21 Manually Operated Lever Hoists. And, for additional information and safe lifting practices, please refer to links in the MHIA website <http://www.mhi.org/osh> .

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, [employers are responsible](#) for providing a safe and healthy workplace and [workers have rights](#). OSHA can help answer questions or concerns from employers and workers. OSHA's [On-site Consultation Program](#) offers free and confidential advice to small and medium-sized businesses, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. For more information, contact your [regional or area OSHA office](#), call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), or visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

*Through the OSHA and Crane, Hoist and Monorail Alliance, the Alliance participants developed this Tip Sheet for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor.*