

MAJOR HAZARDS

SUSPENDED LOADS

A suspended load is an object that is temporarily lifted and hangs above the ground. Working or walking immediately under or close to a suspended load is unsafe as the load can fall on you.

If you are conducting lifting operations, NEVER suspend a load over a person or equipment, or allow a person or vehicle to go under a suspended load.

Loads can slip or fall for a number of reasons, including:

- The wrong equipment used
- Faulty equipment / equipment failure
- Incorrect slinging or load restraint
- Load too heavy for equipment
- Overloaded attachment, e.g. bucket
- Equipment not level or stable during lifting, carrying or lowering
- Load strikes an obstacle, e.g. other equipment, building, powerline, etc.

Even a load that is under the control of the crane / lifting equipment operator, can be hazardous if personnel or equipment enter the lift/set down zone without the operator noticing. Cranes and other lifting equipment can have large blind spots that can hide personnel and even vehicles.

Personnel approaching an area where lifting operations are being conducted MUST get approval from the crane / lifting unit operator via positive radio communication, before entering the work zone (which should be signed and barricaded).

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?



The most serious consequence of a person being struck by a suspended load is death.

Other risks include:

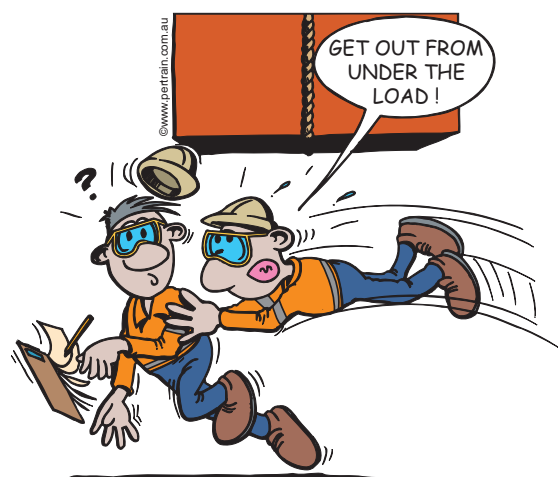
- Injury
- Equipment and / or load damage
- Production loss.

CONTROLLING THE RISKS

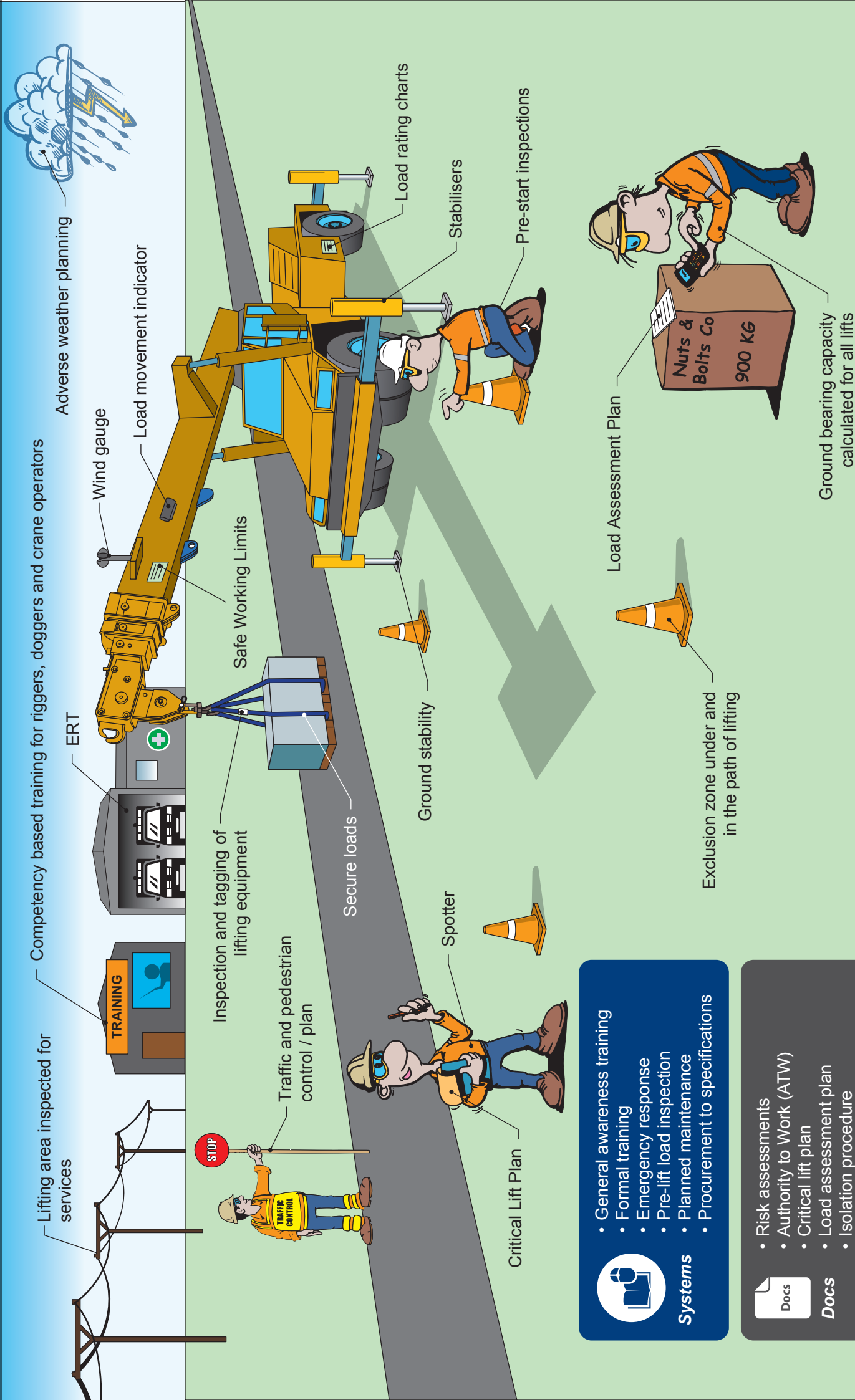
Key controls for minimising the risks associated with suspended loads include:

- All operators trained and authorised
- Used a trained dogger / rigger to secure load
- Risk assessment before every job
- Site and equipment inspected before starting operations
- Separation of people from the hazard (drop / exclusion zone under and around work area, spotter / sentry in place)
- Emergency response preparedness
- Documentation (Procedures, Lift Plan, Authorisation to Work)
- Adverse weather planning (e.g. do not lift in storms as the load can become unpredictable)
- Task suitable equipment so loads are lifted safely
- Safe working limits , load rating charts.

If you must stop the lifting operation at any time, the load must be lowered to the ground. Do not leave the controls of the lifting equipment while the load is suspended in the air, unless in the case of a fire or other life threatening emergency.



STRUCK BY SUSPENDED LOAD



- General awareness training
- Formal training
- Emergency response
- Pre-lift load inspection
- Planned maintenance
- Procurement to specifications



Systems

- Risk assessments
- Authority to Work (ATW)
- Critical lift plan
- Load assessment plan
- Isolation procedure



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