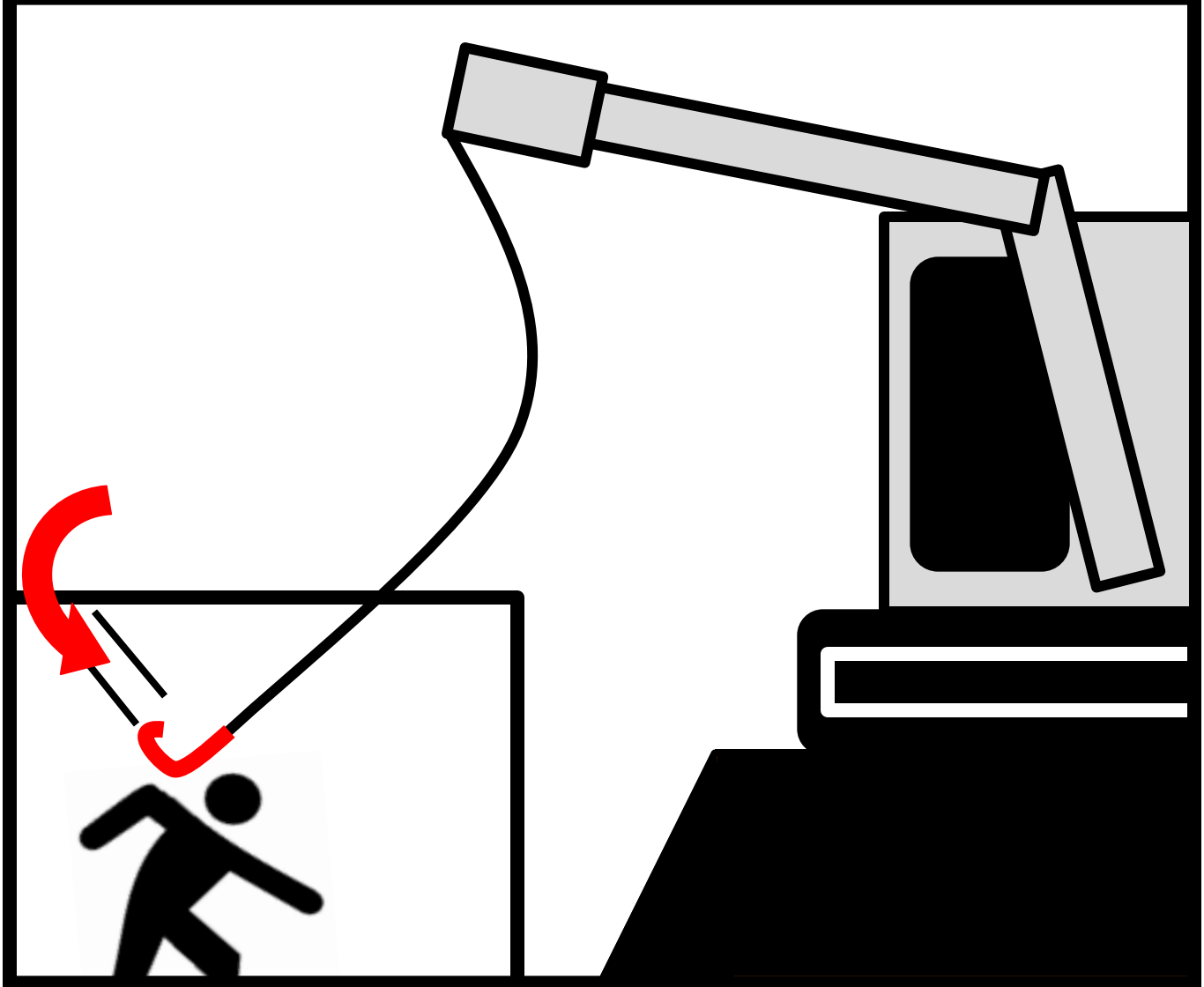
FATAL HAZARD



- Use hooks correctly
- Don’t change hooks or other rigging setups
- Move beyond the reach of cables or rigging

Toolbox Talk Guide

OR-FACE

Excavation Worker Killed by Flying Rigging when Hook Fails

INSTRUCTIONS: Hold the guide with this side facing you and the other side facing your crew. Then read the story.

Our safety talk today is about a 40-year-old pipe layer who died after being struck in the head by a hook on a failed towline. The quick coupler attachment on the track hoe was modified with a latched hook to make rigging easier. The pipe layer was standing inside of a steel trench that was being towed. While towing the trench, the modified hook tip bent causing a separate J-hook to fly off the rigging system and kill the pipe layer by striking him on the back of his hard hat.

So here are some ways we can prevent something like this from happening where we work.

- Choose and use hooks and other rigging fixtures correctly to prevent overloading.
- Hooks and other rigging setups should not be modified.
- Move beyond the potential reach of whipping cables or flying rigging during a towing or lifting operation when possible.
- Management or I should inspect excavation sites daily to prevent and correct hazards.
- Management or I need to make sure everyone is following safety regulations, and that workers are properly trained to safely operate equipment.

ASK: "Does anyone have more ideas or comments to share?"
Pause for discussion. Then see if there are ways to take action.

END WITH ACTION PLAN (ideas for what to ask or say).

- "Are there other hazards when towing the trench shield?"
- "What do you do when you know equipment has been altered and unsure of its safety?"
- Discuss a similar or other potentially fatal hazards at your current site.
- Express your commitment to inspect sites and correct hazards.
- Commit to follow-up at the next safety talk.