January 2012 Safety Message

A NEW YEAR WITH THE SAME OLD MESSAGE

Every New Year begins with “out with the old and in with the new!” That’s appropriate with a lot of things but not safety. It is an old but tried and true message that is worth keeping. So this New Year’s resolutions should include a promise from yourself to your family, shipmates and others that you will work safely at home and at work. Keep that promise just one day at a time and pretty soon the year will go by as another safe year. Repeat the promise—and pass this message—you and your family and shipmates will reap the benefits.

Every month you’ll receive a safety topic; this month’s topic is rigging. Many times at home and at work, we’ll rig a chain fall to lift a motor part or use rope to pull an object that’s too heavy to move any other way. Lifts of parts or bulky and heavy items are often accomplished at the Fleet. However done, rigging for such work creates its own special hazards.

There are Trip and Fall Hazards created by uneven working surfaces, wet and slippery working surfaces or working surfaces not cleared of obstructions. At home or at work, improper use of a portable ladder can be hazardous and result in a fall.

There are also Struck-by and Crushing Hazards caused by defective gear and or equipment not properly inspected before its use. Anytime during a lift or while rigging is employed to move heavy items there are moving parts and equipment in motion that are dangerous if the load is not safely rigged before being hoisted or being moved. Improper use of tag line that allows the hoisted materials to swing out of control or the complete lack of one can be dangerous to those working nearby. Of course, it’s obvious that loads swung overhead or suspended overhead are extremely dangerous to be underneath. Finally, there are also pinch points in hazardous locations between a swinging load and fixed object or bulkhead.

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR!