

# What is Competency and Why Does Industry Still Have Line of Fire Incidents



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## Competency

**Three characteristics are used to describe a worker as 'competent'.**

1. Adequately Qualified
2. Suitably Trained
3. Sufficient Experience

What do these three items mean, and how do they apply to your organization'

**As an organization what do you do to assess your workers competency levels'**

- On which make, model, brand of Crane'
- On which type of rigging hitch'
- On which type of rigging products'
- Does a rigging ticket or crane ticket make them competent'
- Who in your organization can deem the worker competent'
- What opportunities are available to advance the knowledge of the worker'
- Do you perform a onetime competency assessment or ongoing tracking'
- Are competency assessments transferable between organizations' Between departments' Between locations'

This is only a small number of items that a company needs to consider in reference to Competency.

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## Line of Fire

Workers are unaware of or have become complacent in reference to the hazards associated with operating cranes and where to position themselves when moving loads.

1) Here are some steps that an operator should consider when making a lift to avoid putting themselves into a situation where they could find themselves in the line of fire or potentially.

1. Determine travel path,
2. Ensure that there is enough space for the load to travel,
3. Is there good line of site through-out the move,
4. Is the lay down area prepared prior to the move,
5. Are other workers going to be in the travel path,
6. Are there obstacles that must be moved.

2) Complacency can affect one's judgement when working around suspended load.

- a. When workers get too close to a load, their natural reaction is to place a hand on the load.
- b. When workers are observing a lift, they don't realize that as the load rises, the danger zone (line of fire) gets larger in radius.
- c. Workers who use taglines often do not use them correctly.

3) Finally, workers often aren't aware of the proper methods of distancing themselves from the load while maintaining load control. Tag lines are a vital part of rigging and overhead crane operations and workers are informed of the proper methods to use tag lines. What other options are out there instead of taglines'

