

JACK TOOL SAFETY

(For assistance, please contact EHS at (402) 472-4925, or visit our web site at <http://ehs.unl.edu/>)

This SOP is a supplement to the EHS SOP titled, ***Hand and Portable Powered Tool Safety***, which discusses tool safety in general. This SOP summarizes federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards applicable to lever and ratchet, screw, and hydraulic jacks. The most common hazard associated with jack use is collapse from trying to lift beyond the capacity of the jack; jack placement on uneven surfaces; and load slipping off the jack. The OSHA requirements are designed to minimize these hazards.

- The operator must ensure that the jack used has a rating sufficient to lift and sustain the load. The load rating must be prominently displayed on the jack.
- Always set the jack on a firm and level foundation. When necessary to provide a firm foundation, the base of the jack should be blocked or cribbed. To avoid slippage of the metal cap of the jack, place a wooden block between the jack head and the contact surface of the load.
- The operator must watch the stop indicator, which must be kept clean in order to determine the limit of travel. The indicated limit must not be overrun.
- After the load has been raised, it must be cribbed, blocked, or otherwise secured at once.
- Hydraulic jacks exposed to freezing temperatures must be supplied with adequate antifreeze liquid.
- All jacks must be properly lubricated at regular intervals.
- Each jack shall be thoroughly inspected at times which depend upon the service conditions. Inspections must be not less frequent than the following:
 - for constant or intermittent use at one locality, once every 6 months;
 - for jacks sent out of shop for special work, when sent out and when returned;
 - for a jack subjected to abnormal load or shock, immediately before and immediately thereafter.
- Repair or replacement parts must be examined for possible defects.
- Jacks in need of repair must be tagged and immediately removed from service.
- All lifts should be vertical with the jack perpendicular, at a right angle to the load.