

# Toolbox Talk

## Barrow Hoists

A Barrow Hoist is a small crane designed to mount either directly onto scaffolding or onto an independent stand. They are mainly used for shifting silt and debris out of lock chambers using a wheelbarrow.

### How does it work?

Modern hoists resemble miniature overhanging cranes, having a gantry and an electric motor. You must be trained to use the barrow hoist by a WRG Drivers Authorisation instructor and be competent in operating the machine.

Most require the operator to move out into space, both to use the operating level and to load/recover the barrow. Control measures can be put in place however to offset the risks.

### Transporting:

Be careful when transporting the hoist and frame as it can be heavy. Always do two person lifts and either wheel the motor to position or use scaffolding poles to carry it.

### Setting up and operating the barrow hoist:

When setting up at the top of a lock chamber, always be aware of the drop. Always set up the hoist on the side where you are disposing of the silt. It helps if the area is flat, free of debris, undergrowth and has enough of an area to work in. It is also important to allow an area for a good barrow run, pushing barrows all day can become tiring so preparing a barrow run will be time well spent. If the barrow run runs across the hoist cable protect it well!

When assembling, take care as some of the different parts can be tricky. The mast must be vertical and the front of the base should be 10-15cm (4-6") from the edge of the lock. The stand must be level. Once erected you should put lots of weight onto the back of the of the frame to counterbalance the load.

Always rig the hoist as per the instruction manual. If you are not a trained operator you should not be setting up or operating the hoist.

Once set up the hoist should be inspected by a competent person before it is put into operation. A scaffold tag system will be used to demonstrate that the hoist is inspected regu-

### Key Notes:

- If you become aware of a fault in the operation of the hoist at any point you must stop what you are doing, report it to the Leader .
- You must never use a hoist for anything other than what it is designated and equipped for.



**Beware of the potential build up of exhaust fumes in a lock chamber.**

**Hoists are not to be used as man lifts.**

**Wear strong gloves when handling wire rope.**

### Using the hoist:

Make sure you have WRG driver authorisation category 14a to operate this piece of equipment. Carry your card with you for inspection.