

## Toolbox Talk # 12.01 – Cranes

Safe crane operation involves using the correct type and size of crane for the work site. An active inspection program, as well as periodic maintenance, contributes to a safe operation.

Guidelines to follow for safe crane operations include:

- Evaluate the site—mobile cranes require a solid, level supporting surface. Check the loadbearing capacity of the site. Inspect for any underground utility lines and additional digging hazards.
- Check for overhead power lines—OSHA requires a 10-foot clearance between the power line and the equipment. A signal person should be used to maintain the required distance. It is a good idea to check with the electric company to see if the line can be de-energized.
- **Never exceed the crane's load-limit**—load rating should be tested on an annual basis. The weight of the load blocks and slings should be included in the calculations. Loads should always be balanced and secured. Personnel should never stand underneath loads.
- Lift loads properly - Lower, raise, brake, and swing loads slowly. If a load is moved too fast, it drifts away from the crane which can cause the crane to tip forward or the boom to collapse.
- Only lift loads when the crane is level. Consider wind speed and how that might affect the load. Don't drag or push a load. Swing every load slowly and don't change speed suddenly.
- Avoid positioning the hook, or swinging a load over a person. When a load is held, be sure to set and lock the brakes.

### Crane inspections

To ensure smooth crane operation, take time to perform the following functions:

- Tighten or replace loose or missing hardware.
- Inspect wire rope for defects.
- Check fluid levels and look for leaks. If fluid is leaking, schedule an appointment with the maintenance shop to have it fixed.
- Ensure that operating controls are clearly marked.
- Check to make sure a fire extinguisher and first-aid kit is available.
- Ensure that load limiting devices are available.

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Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Other safety issues covered or comments from crew members:

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### Attendees:

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