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NOVEMBER *Safety Talk*

Topic: Crane Hoist Safety

Municipal workers use a variety of lifting devices in their every day work – from overhead cranes in the Mobile Equipment Shop, to Hiabs loading and unloading equipment on a flat deck, to a backhoe or excavator, lowering and raising shoring in excavations. There are certain safety rules that must be followed by everyone who works with or near this type of equipment.



WORKERS IN THE OPERATING AREA

- Stay alert and pay attention to the warning signal from overhead hoisting equipment.
- Never stand or walk under a load, whether it's moving or stationary.
- Always warn others of moving and approaching overhead loads.
- Never attempt to distract signal persons or operators of the overhead equipment while they are performing their jobs.
- Always obey warning signs, especially those that are posted in critical areas.

OPERATORS, SIGNAL PERSONS AND HOOK-UP CREWS

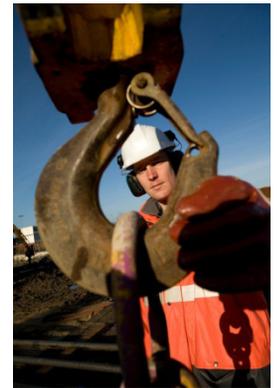
- Check to see that the equipment you are about to operate has been recently inspected. (This may not be necessary if the operator has been assigned to the same piece of equipment for a period of time.)
- Test the warning signal or device to make sure it is working properly.
- Never operate a crane that is unsafe.
- Before starting work, check the brakes and all controls.
- Never permit an unauthorized person to operate the crane or give the signals.
- Always be sure that the operator and signal persons are in direct and clear view, or in communication by phone.
- Never carry a load over other workers.
- Always use warning signals before and during moves.
- Never allow anyone to ride on the load or hooks.

- If a load appears to be slung improperly, lower it and have it adjusted.
- When oiling, adjusting or repairing the equipment, always lock the main control in the off position.

The work of riggers and hookup crews is extremely important, because much of the safe operation of overhead cranes and hoists depends upon their knowledge and skill.

All members of the crew must know their job responsibilities and the proper procedures. Correct placement of the sling or choker, or of the chain, contribute to safe lift travel and positioning of the load. The placement controls the balance and how the system will handle on the hook throughout the operation.

Sometimes the crew must determine whether a tag line is needed to control the motion and position of the load while it's in the air. Knowing how to place and manipulate the tag line safely requires skill and alertness.



Safe operation of crane and hoisting equipment requires efficient teamwork and a thorough knowledge of the skills involved.

WorkSafeBC Regulation requires that crane operators be certified in their operation, depending on the size of the machine. Training and certification is available through the BC Association for Crane Safety (www.bcacs.ca).