

TOOL BOX TALKS

Truck-Mounted Crane Review

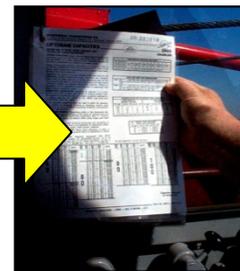
Everyone on the construction jobsite should be familiar with safety concerns of truck-mounted cranes. Even employees that may not be operators may be called upon to assist operators with rigging, spotting or backing the crane. Cranes create many additional hazards on the jobsite, and operators must be fully trained to keep everyone on the jobsite safe. Cranes can tip over, contact power lines and drop loads. Review these safety tips with your employees.

WORKSAFE TIPS

TRUCK-MOUNTED CRANES

- Operators must be trained on the specific crane they are operating.
- Keep crane booms a minimum of ten feet from overhead power lines.
- Electricity can arc to cranes, taking a path to ground through outriggers and tires.
- Swing loads away from other crew members or the public. Do not swing loads overhead workers.
- Whenever the boom is lifted, set the outriggers in place.
- Use cribbing / pads to create a firm and level surface for outriggers.
- The spotter must be trained in all hand signals, and must have a headset or two-way radio for communications with the crane operator.
- Never operate a crane outside of its limits or load chart.
- Remember that cranes have many safety devices that limit overloading, but these devices do not help when the crane is “shock loaded” or when warnings are ignored or overridden.
- Shock loading, swinging loads too quickly or bouncing loads can place too much tension and stress on crane booms or cables, resulting in a dropped load or collapse.
- Use appropriate, rated slings, ropes and chains when lifting a load.
- Inspect rigging daily. Remove from service if damaged.
- The rigging of the load and stability of the crane can be tested by lifting the load off of the ground slightly (a few inches) before making the lift.
- Employees on the roof or framing must wear fall protection or be protected by guardrails.
- Use tag lines. Do not allow workers to guide loads with their hands. If the boom contacts a power line, tag lines will protect workers from electric shock.
- Operate the crane at a slower-than-normal rate in the vicinity of power lines.
- Exercise caution near long spans of overhead power lines, since wind can cause the power lines to sway laterally and reduce the clearance between the crane and the power line.
- Mark safe routes where cranes must repeatedly travel beneath power lines.
- Exercise caution when travelling over uneven ground that could cause the crane to weave or bob into power lines.
- Keep all personnel well away from the crane whenever it is close to power lines.
- Prohibit persons from touching the crane or its load until a signal person indicates that it is safe to do so.

Know the crane load chart, capacities & limitations.



Outriggers not fully extended. Caused a fatality & severe injuries



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