

## Let's Talk Crane Safety!

Cranes are used on many construction projects. They make it possible for us to lift goods and materials to high, out-of-reach places. We depend on cranes to hang structural iron, to move tons of rebar, to stack exhaust components, and to place concrete and roofing materials. Deliveries are unloaded using cranes. The truth is, we would be less productive and safety would be compromised if these lifting machines were not available.

In addition to the advantages they provide, cranes also present many potential safety hazards. Crane operators are responsible for operating the crane in a safe manner, and we as professional iron workers comprise an elite team of experts who will help in the process of making that happen. There are several things that employees who work with cranes must keep in mind:

- Make sure operator has applicable certification for crane being operated.
- Inspect the crane daily and keep up with preventive maintenance.
- Establish a lift plan before you use a crane.
- Stay focused when working with the crane, do not allow yourself to become distracted.
- Make sure everyone working with crane is trained to do so. I.E. Rigger / Signal person.
- Do not allow loads to pass over workers or endanger their safety.
- Never allow anyone to ride the load or hook.
- Barricade the swing radius of the crane.
- Use a tag line to guide and control the load if necessary.
- Use spotters when relocating cranes on the on the job site.
- Always look up to check for overhead power lines before you move the crane.
- Maintain the required distance when working around power lines.
- Assume that every power line is hot.
- Secure the crane at the end of your shift.

If you are making a decision about a lift, error on the side of safety.



## Do This!

- Make sure operator has applicable certification for crane being operated.
- Inspect the crane daily and keep up with preventive maintenance.
- Barricade the swing radius of the crane.
- Establish and develop lift plan before using the crane. Review with crew and operator so everyone understands the game plan.
- Do not allow loads to pass over workers or endanger their safety.
- Make sure all overhead loads are secure from displacement and free from debris that could fall during transit.
- Always use tag lines to help maintain and control the load when flying material overhead.
- Use spotters when relocating cranes on the on the job site.
- Always look up to check for overhead power lines before you move the crane.
- Never allow anyone to ride the load or hook.
- Be sure that crane is safely secured at the end of the work day.

## Don't do this!

- Skip daily inspection of crane.
- Begin work without pre-planning and developing a lift plan.
- Attempt to make lifts prior to knowing weight of pick and how it relates to the cranes capacity.
- Fly overhead materials without using tag lines.
- Expose workers to overhead hazards, coordinate work with other trades and establish C.A.Z.
- Begin work prior to barricading crane.
- Relocate crane without using spotters.
- Allow unqualified personell to work with crane.



