



020: Cranes and Hoists

Non-operator

Cranes and hoists can pose hazards to people who are not operating them. Thus, observe the following rules if you are in the operating area of a crane or hoist but are not operating it.

Avoid or leave the area, if you can. For example, if your work is on the other side of the crane area, walk around the crane area rather than through it.

Stay alert. Pay attention to the crane operator, load, and signalman.

If you are with another person in the operating area, warn that person of the crane dangers. Do not let yourself be distracted by conversation. Your mission is to make it through the area without a crane-related incident.

Obey all warning signs, including tape.

Do not make any gestures to the crane operator, if there is a signalman or ground assistant present. Let that person be the single point of contact to the crane operator.

Follow orders given by the signalman.

Stay out from underneath crane loads. Never ride on the load or rigging.

Signalman

The signalman is an extra set of eyes and ears for the crane operator. The signalman can prevent many types of crane mishaps simply by asserting his or her authority.

Take command of the area. Use proper hand signals or radio communications.

Focus on the job at hand. Even the site superintendent will seldom interrupt you, unless it's an emergency, because your job requires 100% attention.

Pay attention to the operation area, and watch for changing circumstances.

If others enter the area and their presence may be a problem, signal the crane operator to stop until the area is clear.

Operator

Ensure the equipment inspection record is current.

Assure crane is setup in proper manner including use of outriggers on stable ground.

Before operating the crane or hoist, test the warning signal or warning device, brakes, and controls.

Only a qualified employee can operate a crane—ensure you are qualified for the crane you are using. Simply being authorized isn't enough. If you are not qualified on that equipment, let your foreman know this if your foreman asks you to use it.

Never permit an unauthorized person to operate the crane or give the signals.

Never carry a load over other people.

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Understand your company rules for cranes and hoists. See if you can get a crane operator, rigger, signalman, or crane foreman to join this safety talk.

What this Safety Talk covers:

How to avoid hazards inherent in the use of cranes and hoists.

Discussion notes :

