

## TOOLBOX TALK #30

### CRANE SAFETY QUESTIONS – PART 1

*What are some unique safety hazards that cranes present for workers?*

There are some safety hazards that are unique about crane operations and then some that are not. One that is not necessarily unique to crane operations but something that we have to be concerned about is the qualification of personnel. Crane operations are not just about the crane operator; focus must be placed on the crane team (i.e. site supervisor, lift director, rigger and signalperson). Other roles such as crane owner and crane user that are mentioned in regulatory standards also have an impact on the operation. Any individual involved in the team who is not qualified to do the job or who needs additional training should be a significant concern for companies.



Hazards such as ground conditions come to mind when we think about hazards that are specific to crane operations. The larger the crane, the more bearing pressure it exerts upon the ground. We have to make sure the ground will hold the crane up in order for the crane to hold up the load. We have to worry about hazards such as the overloading of equipment. When a crane is overloaded, it could overturn or break the boom. Overloading the equipment relates back to the qualifications of personnel, the people who are involved. These workers must understand what factors can cause an overload condition for the equipment.

Rigging is also a crane-specific hazard. Cranes don't raise the load up unless someone rigs the load to the crane. Related concerns include rigging scenarios, rigging failures and qualifications of individuals performing the rigging. Personnel need to understand how to properly secure the load to the crane so that it does not dislodge in the air.

Powerlines have been another important topic when it comes to mobile cranes because cranes coming into contact with overhead powerlines have been one of the leading contributors of fatalities and injuries of workers involved in crane operations for years.