

Team Safety Talks: Cranes and Overhead Wires

Company Name _____ Job Name _____ Date _____

There are many dangerous situations on a construction site, but operating hoisting equipment close to overhead wires is more than just dangerous; it's a matter of life and death! The following guidelines should help us prevent potentially deadly contact:

Keep cranes a safe distance from power lines. For lines rated 50 kV or below, minimum clearance between the lines and machines or loads must be 10 feet plus 0.4 inch for each 1 kV. over 50 kV., or twice the length of the line insulator, but NEVER less than 10 feet.

Use a qualified signalperson when the crane is within boom's length of a line. The signal person must warn the operator when the machine is approaching the lines since the operator may not be able to accurately judge the distance. The signalperson should have no other duties while the machine is working near the power line.

Do not rely on ground rods for safety. They provide little or no protection. People touching the crane or load will still draw enough current to kill, even with the best ground rods in place. In addition, don't rely on proximity warning devices, hook insulators, insulating boom guards, swing limit stops, etc. as each has serious limitations.

Except for the operator, keep all personnel away from the crane when working near power line. Don't allow anyone to touch the load, crane, or crane hook until the signalperson indicates that it is safe to do so. Exercise caution when working near overhead lines having long spans. These tend to swing laterally in the wind and contact can occur.

Use caution when moving cranes. Uneven ground can cause the boom to weave or bob into lines. Ensure a route is plainly marked when cranes must travel beneath power lines. 'Rider' poles should be erected on each side of the crossing approach to guarantee that the boom will be lowered to a safe position. Avoid using tag lines except when it is possible for the load to spin into the power line. All rope will conduct electricity.

DUMP TRUCKS & OVERHEAD WIRES SPELL DANGER, TOO! BE ALERT IN INDUSTRIAL AREAS & NEAR TEMPORARY POWER LINES.

Safety Recommendations: _____

Job Specific Topics: _____

S.D.S Reviewed: _____

Attended By: _____

