

OVERHEAD CRANES

Overhead cranes are essential equipment in many manufacturing, maintenance and industrial work sites. They are an efficient tool for lifting and moving heavy loads.

Crane operators, riggers and employees working near overhead cranes need to be aware of the unique hazards these large machines bring to a work site.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- TRAINING
- PRE-USE INSPECTION
- USING AN OVERHEAD CRANE



BC Forest Safety

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TRAINING

To ensure a work site and workers remain safe when overhead cranes are on site, only trained and authorized workers should operate them. Anyone working in the vicinity of an overhead crane must be trained in general site safety awareness to ensure all safety precautions are taken to keep all site workers safe.

PRE-USE INSPECTION

A pre-use inspection of overhead cranes should be completed at the beginning of every shift and prior to use. When completing the pre-use inspection, conduct the following:

- Survey the area around the crane and check for leaking fluids and trip hazards
- Ensure guards are in place and working as intended
- Inspect the wire rope for damage or distortions
- Inspect the drum for proper rope alignment
- Inspect the block and hook for cracks or damage
- Inspect the bumpers for damage
- Test the limit switches for proper functionality

**IF ANY DEFECTS OR ISSUES ARE FOUND DURING INSPECTION -
DO NOT OPERATE THE CRANE AND REPORT IMMEDIATELY!**

USING AN OVERHEAD CRANE

- Inspect the equipment before using it. Never operate a crane that is unsafe!
- Check the surrounding area and travel path for hazards prior to any lift.
- Fence off the area to prevent unauthorized access and block people from walking under the load.
- Never allow an unauthorized person to operate the crane or give hand signals.
- Make sure the operator and signal person are in direct contact.
- Never carry a load over another worker.
- Never exceed the weight limits of an overhead crane. Check the weight of the load prior to lifting to ensure the crane is capable of lifting it.
- Use a tagline to control the object being lifted.
- If the lift appears to become unstable or unsafe, stop immediately.



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