

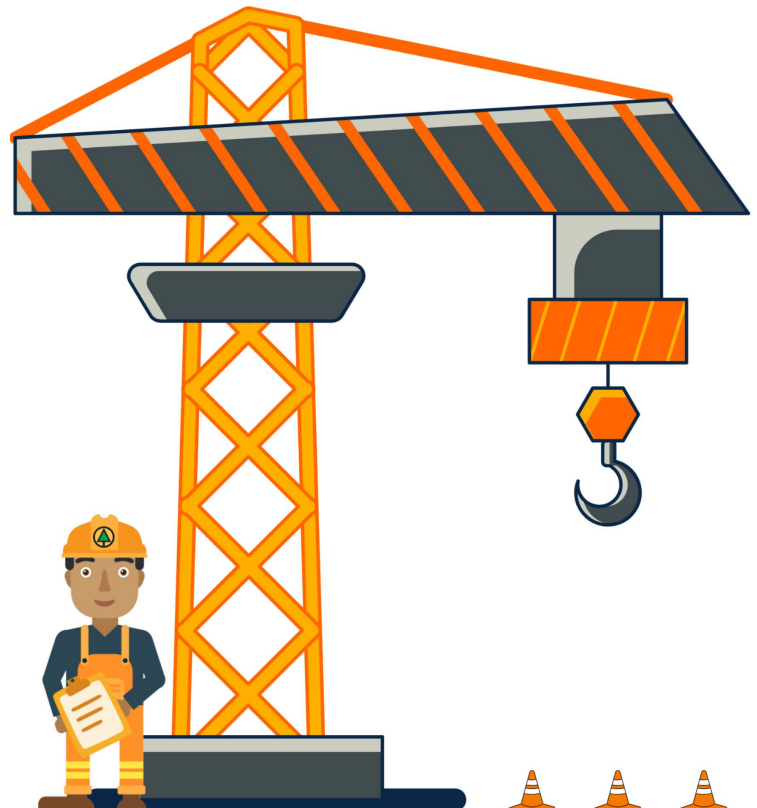
CRANE AND HOIST SAFETY

Cranes and hoist are essential for lifting and moving heavy materials, but improper use can lead to serious accidents, injuries or fatalities. Understanding crane and hoist safety rules is critical to ensuring a safe work environment.

Safe crane and hoist lifting depends on understanding the load weight, inspecting and using the right equipment, keeping people clear of the lift zone, and lifting and moving loads slowly and under control at all times.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU LIFT:

- HAZARDS
- RISK MANAGEMENT
- SAFE LIFTING PRACTICES



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

CRANE AND HOIST SAFETY



HAZARDS

- **Falling Loads:** Can cause serious injuries or fatalities.
- **Electrocution:** Contact with overhead power lines can be deadly.
- **Swinging or Shifting Loads:** Can striking workers or equipment.
- **Crane Tip-Over:** Caused by overloading or unstable ground conditions.
- **Mechanical Failures:** Equipment malfunction resulting from poor maintenance or damaged equipment
- **Unauthorized Personnel:** Workers entering restricted lifting zones.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Every lift must be planned carefully. A suspended load can create serious hazards for everyone in the area, not just the operator.

- Perform pre-use inspections of the crane or hoist, including the boom, wire ropes, hooks and other critical components.
- Inspect hydraulic systems, load indicators, controls and brakes to ensure they are working properly.
- Do not use equipment that is damaged, defective or overdue for inspection.

SAFE LIFTING PRACTICES

- Make sure all rigging equipment is in good condition, properly rated and used correctly.
- Consider sling angles, hitch types, edge protection and hardware condition when planning the lift.
- Verify the load weight, centre of gravity, lifting points and travel path before lifting.
- Never guess the weight of a load or exceed the crane's rated load capacity.
- Use taglines when needed to prevent loads from swinging or rotating.
- Lift and move loads slowly and under control.
- Keep workers clear of suspended loads and the lifting path at all times.

Power Line Safety:

- Maintain at least 10 feet (3 metres) of clearance from overhead power lines.
- Use a spotter when working near electrical hazards.

Ground Stability:

- Set up cranes on firm, level ground with outriggers fully extended.
- Use cribbing or mats when needed to help distribute the load and improve stability on soft ground.

Communication and Signals: Communication must be clear before lifting begins. Operators, riggers, signal persons, spotters and nearby workers should know the lift plan and stop signal.

- Use standard hand signals or radio communication.
- Only a qualified signal person should direct the operator.

Qualified Personnel Only:

- Only trained and certified workers should operate cranes or hoists.
- Keep unauthorized personnel out of the lifting area while a crane or hoist is in operation.

REMEMBER

**Crane and hoist safety is essential to prevent workplace accidents. Always inspect, communicate, and operate safely.
Never take shortcuts!**

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