

5-Minute Talk

Overview of topic

Mobile cranes move materials and products through facilities and through yards and staging areas.

The safe use of a mobile crane depends on several factors. They are:

- Site evaluation—Evaluating the terrain, what is overhead, what the load bearing capacity of the site is, and what the hazards are in the area.
- Operator training—Operators must be trained in the operation, limitations, and emergency procedures for the cranes they operate. They should understand the load ratings and how to properly lift loads.
- Proper equipment selection for the job—Selection of the proper equipment is a factor in operating cranes safely. The crane should be matched to the operation it is to be used in. Review the manufacturer's specifications and recommendations to determine if a crane or derrick can be used in a particular application.
- Inspection—Inspection of cranes ensures that the equipment is functioning as it is designed to.
- Proper maintenance—Besides repairing the equipment, a crane program should include preventive maintenance. Well-maintained equipment will aid in preventing accidents involving mechanical failure. Modifications can only be made with the manufacturer's approval.

Inspections

The two types of inspections are frequent and periodic. Frequent inspections are the daily preoperational walk-around, the prestart-up check, and the post start-up check. Periodic inspections are performed monthly and annually. The monthly inspection interval varies depending on crane use and conditions.

Maintenance

Keeping a crane in good operating condition requires preventive maintenance as well as timely repairs. Follow your company's preventive maintenance program. The basis for this program is the manufacturer's recommendations on preventive maintenance.



General safety rules

Don't forget to discuss with workers basic safety rules that may seem obvious. Tell workers to:

- Avoid carrying loads over people.
- Not allow anyone to ride the hook or load during hoisting, lowering, or traveling.
- Not walk away from the crane with a load suspended.
- Move loads slowly; avoid sudden acceleration or deceleration.

Employee training

Only designated employees shall be permitted to operate a mobile crane covered by §1910.180. Operating and maintenance personnel shall be familiar with the use and care of the fire extinguishers provided.

Training tips

Crane operators should be trained before initial assignment and regularly thereafter. They are not the only employees involved in crane operations that should receive training. Include the signal and ground persons, lift directors, and riggers in any training.

Since inspections play a major part in the safe operation of cranes, a mock inspection provides experience in performing an inspection. Develop an inspection checklist for the type of mock inspection to be performed

Where to go for more information

1910.180—Crawler, locomotive, and truck cranes

