



# CRANE ACCIDENTS

## CAUSES AND PREVENTIONS

Working in a construction zone can be dangerous. Of the duties performed in the work site, crane operation is prone to accidents. Here are a few of the most common causes of accidents and some tips for preventing them in the future.



### EXCEEDING WEIGHT LIMIT

Each crane has a maximum weight it can lift. It's important to pay attention to the limit for each crane and that the load does not exceed that weight. If the load is too heavy, there's a risk of boom collapse.

### DROPPED LOADS

Dropped loads are a danger to others in the construction site, and they are commonly a result of improper rigging. Proper rigging and inspection of the components is the key to avoiding dropped loads.

### CRANE TIPPING

Unstable ground conditions can result in a higher risk of a crane tipping. The outrigger pad should be positioned on stable ground, which one can determine by a thorough inspection of the ground before operation.

### ELECTROCUTION

Electrocution from overhead wires is one of the leading causes of death among crane operators. It's important to exercise extreme caution when operating a crane in the vicinity of such wiring.



### REMOVE HAZARDS

The best way to avoid a hazard during crane operation is to remove it from the construction zone. This may not be possible in all cases, but it helps eliminate accidents caused by obstacles that can be removed.

### CONDUCT THOROUGH INSPECTION

It's vital to do a comprehensive pre-operation inspection of a crane every time it is used. This will ensure that it is in good working condition and there are no issues that can potentially compromise the integrity of the crane.

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Everyone in the work site should be wearing proper safety equipment, such as boots, gloves and hard hats. Personal protective equipment is one's last line of defense in the event of a workplace mishap.

### PROPER TRAINING

As of November 2018, all crane operators are required by OSHA to complete certified training programs by type of crane. The new requirements also mandate ongoing training to keep employees up to date. Proper knowledge goes a long way toward accident prevention.

While there are risks associated with the job, crane operation can be a meaningful career. If you're interested in top-notch training, as mentioned in the last prevention point, look no further than the programs offered by Heavy Equipment Colleges of America. HEC's Mobile Crane Operation program will prepare you for the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators' written and practical examination which meet the OSHA requirements to operate a mobile crane.