

Tools for Life – Weekly Health & Safety Meeting



Home Healthy - Home Safe

September 2021

Crane Safety Awareness

In 2019 a 278-foot tower crane collapsed in downtown Seattle killing 4 workers. In 2021 a crane collapsed in downtown Kelowna, BC killing 5 workers. These preventable deaths so close to home give us pause and make us ask ourselves if we are doing everything possible to prevent this from happening to our Apollo family. This toolbox talk barely scratches the surface of the hazards and controls needed to coordinate a safe lift.

Apollo's AISH 36 establishes the safe operating procedures for cranes. It outlines specific roles and responsibilities for Supervisors, Operators, Lift Directors, Riggers and Signalman. It identifies general requirements, assembly, inspection, operations, critical lifts, environmental conditions, rigging and signaling and training.

How does Apollo maintain safety during crane lifts?

1. **Qualifications** – Crane operators must possess a current certification by an accredited agency such as the NCCCO. Riggers and Signalman can be qualified through Apollo specific training. It is important to verify the qualifications of all persons involved in lifts prior to this work.
2. **Safety Department** – The safety department provides support in training, developing lift plans, ensuring inspections meet requirements, provide additional resources, and help conduct pre-task safety meetings.
3. **Inspections** – Cranes must be inspected by a qualified person prior to each use, monthly, and annually. They are also subject to preventive maintenance schedules as determined by the manufacturer. Any identified deficiencies must be corrected.
4. **Pre-Task meetings** – Prior to each days' tasks use pre job meetings to coordinate activities between the team members and adjacent work groups. Ensure workers have adequate time understand crane activities; assembly, dis-assembly, inspections, lifts, lift paths, barriers, and what to do in the event something goes wrong. Ensure all workers understand their right to STOP WORK!

SAFETY REMINDER: "Leadership isn't one person leading a team. It is a group of leaders working together, up and down the chain of command, to lead. If you are on your own, I don't care how good you are, you won't be able to handle it." Jocko Willink

Discussion Points/Quiz Questions:

1. How does Apollo's Crane procedure keep workers safe?
2. Are cranes used on your job site?
3. Discuss specific safety rules for cranes.