

### Introduction

Cranes are one of the most versatile, powerful and important pieces of equipment commonly found on construction sites. They can be used to accomplish a lot of heavy lifting tasks, saving the amount of time and energy spent on a project. However, they can also be one of the most dangerous pieces of equipment on site since they can lift heavy loads over large areas of a project, require workers to perform work at great heights



and pose the risk of electrocution. Employees whose jobs involve working with and around cranes need to understand the hazards of moving parts and rigging of loads. Hazards relating to this type of equipment can include:

- **Striking injuries** from moving equipment, raising or dropped loads
- **Crushing injuries** from equipment overturning, breaking or rigging failures
- **Falls** from performing work at heights
- **Electrocution** from contact with overhead power lines

There are many different types of cranes which play an important role in lifting heavy loads. No matter which piece of equipment is being used, below are some general safety rules in regards to the maintenance and operation of cranes.

### Equipment Maintenance

- Both the employer or contractor, and the supplier have a responsibility to ensure that every hoist, crane and lifting device, including all rigging, used or supplied for use at a place of employment is designed, constructed, installed, maintained and operated to perform safely any task for which the equipment is used.
- Inspections must be completed and any defects properly repaired before the equipment is used.
- Structural components of the equipment must be working properly. If the equipment is not in good condition, worn out or over stressed, or if a cable, hook, or sling is overloaded, the load may drop.

### Equipment Operators

- All competent crane operators must have successfully completed a training program that includes all of the elements set out in Table 13 of the Appendix of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020 - Minimum Training Requirements for Competent Operator of a Crane*.
- Operators must ensure all safety system indicators are functioning properly and enabled at all times.
- Inspection and log books must be completed daily.
- Equipment must not be overloaded. Crane accidents have potential to cause serious injuries or death, as well as major property damage if a load is dropped or if the crane overturns.
- Avoid lifting loads above workers or the public. Workers can be hit by a load, dropped or suspended, if working under or near a load. It is very important workers' pay attention around crane operations, obey all warning signs and stay out of way of moving parts.
- Electrocution is a deadly hazard with cranes. Before work is performed in the area, a site evaluation should be completed to identify and correct any hazards present. Power lines must be located and barricades or signs should be posted to ensure minimum distance is maintained.
- Report any unsafe acts, malfunctions or problems to your supervisor.

**Applicable Legislation:** *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020 Part 13 Hoists, Cranes and Lifting Devices*



# Tool Box Talk

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When accidents and incidents happen on the jobsite, we are always quick to point the finger at lack of training, not following practices or procedures, or even improper supervision. The idea that the hazards and dangers associated with the job were not properly communicated to all of the workers is often missed.

Tool Box Talks can go by many names, and although formats may vary, these meetings all serve one purpose: to inform employees and contract workers. Tool Box Talks are short, informal, meetings between management and the workers on a jobsite. The goal of these meetings is to reinforce current safe job procedures, inform workers of new and/or relevant procedures, review recent safety violations/incidents, and ensure workers are up-to-date on the information required to complete their work safely.

Always use a Tool Box Talk form to record the meeting topic, date, who was in attendance, and any follow-up actions to be taken. Not only do these forms help with consistency of record keeping, but they also ensure that nothing is missed. At the end of the meeting have management sign off on the form.

One of the most important aspects of a Tool Box Talk is giving workers an opportunity to voice their concerns and ask questions. All employees have a right to participate in health and safety as it relates to their work and it is the supervisor or manager's responsibility to create an environment for them to do so. Once the meeting is over, and the form is filled out, it should be filed with other documented Tool Box Talks.

Remember that Tool Box Talks are short and informal, they are not meant to be intimidating. Use the opportunity to have fun and stay on top of what is necessary to keep safety culture a strong part of the business.

For a full listing of Tool Box Talk topics, visit: [www.scsaonline.ca/resources/tool-box-talks](http://www.scsaonline.ca/resources/tool-box-talks)

For a copy of the Tool Box Talk form, visit: [www.scsaonline.ca/pdf/Tool\\_Box\\_Meeting.pdf](http://www.scsaonline.ca/pdf/Tool_Box_Meeting.pdf)

## About the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association

The Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA) is an industry-funded, membership-based, nonprofit organization that provides cost-effective, accessible safety training and advice to employers and employees in the construction industry throughout the province to reduce the human and financial losses associated with injuries. Registered March 20, 1995, the SCSA is, and has been since inception, committed to injury prevention. Serving almost 10,000 member companies with business offices in both Regina and Saskatoon, the major business units of the association are Advisory Services, Business Development, Corporate Services, Program Services and Training. The mission of the SCSA is constructing safety leadership in Saskatchewan and the vision is to create the safest construction environment in Canada.