


**CRANES**



Managing Risk

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**Jim Walter**  
**Safety Director, Denver Operating Group**  
**M.A. Mortenson Company**

- Operating engineers
  - Apprenticeship
  - Journeyman
- 15 years operating cranes
  - Large lattice boom cranes
  - Small and large hydraulic cranes
  - Tower cranes
- NCCCO licensed
  - Alternate commissioner
  - Tower crane task force




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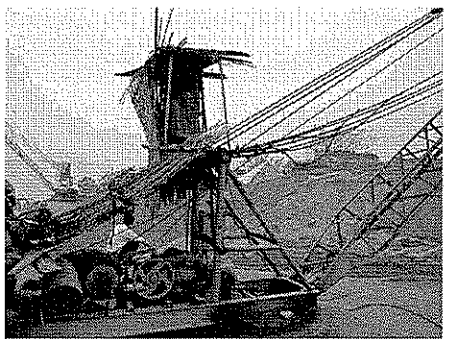

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**For Rent**


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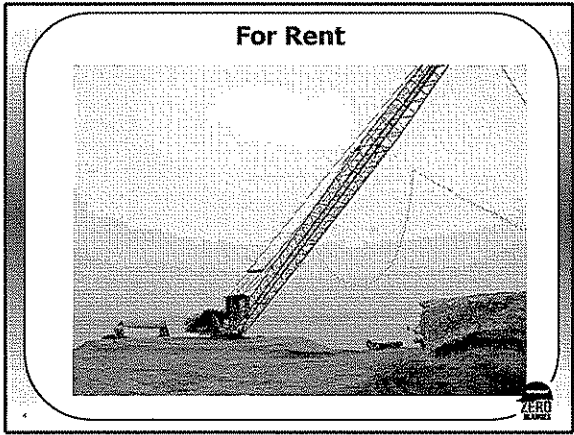
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**Cranes are the most unique, high profile piece of equipment on any jobsite**

- A LOAD CANNOT BE LIFTED INTO THE AIR WITHOUT SOME DEGREE OF RISK AND DANGER.
- For this reason, it is critical that crane and rigging operations on projects be carefully managed and, if necessary, engineered to minimize this danger.

ZERO RISK

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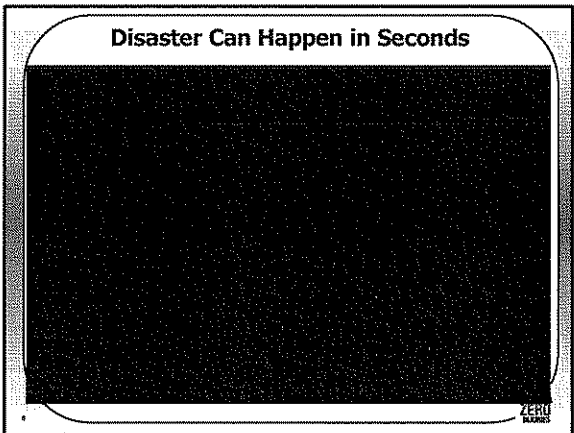
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**Vendors / Owners**

- Mandate that crane inspection data be supplied for the site supervisor prior to moving any crane onto a project.
  - Maintenance log books
  - Annual inspections
    - Documented repairs
  - Wire rope inspections
  - Daily inspections
- Build up cranes or lattice booms require an on-site inspection and load test before being put into service.
  - Independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party



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**Crane User**

- Properly used by knowledgeable personnel.
  - Require CCO (or equivalent) certified crane operators.
  - Provide crane and rigging safety training for craft foremen.
  - Develop site specific hoisting plans for all hoisting activities.



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**Operating in a Safe Environment**

- Evaluate crane foundation loadings prior to positioning a crane on a project.
- Establish and enforce formal lift planning procedures for all critical lifting operations on a project.
- Establish an ongoing rigging inspection and retirement program.
- Vigorously enforce safe lifting practices for every pick.



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### Rigger / Signal Person

- Proper rigging and signal person training.
- Sling angles.
- Softeners utilized.
- Inspection of shackles, hooks and slings.
- Load control mechanisms utilized (tag lines).



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### Site Supervision

- Includes project managers, superintendents, area supervisors, or craft foremen and have the overall responsibility for any lifting done with a crane.
  - Supervise all work involving the crane.
  - Crane operator receives orientation with site specific information including proximity to underground structures such as waterlines, sewers, or conduits and power lines are of particular importance.
  - Competent and trained riggers and signal persons.
  - Lifting planning with appropriate detail is developed, communicated, and understood by all involved in the operation.



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### Communication

- No single individual can ensure safe crane operation.
- Cooperation and communication between all team members is vital in achieving...
  - **Zero injuries**
  - **Zero property damage**



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**Insurance**

- General liability coverage.
- Waiver and indemnity form or executed subcontract agreement-Any person or company who seeks to use company-owned equipment
- All leased equipment must be procured through execution of a Standard Equipment Lease Agreement, including the Service Addendum, if applicable.
- Subcontractors must carry equipment insurance in accordance with subcontract agreement.




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**Operators**

- Certifications for crane operators
  - Mortenson
    - All Mortenson crane operators are required to be CCO certified within six (6) months of their date of hire, with re-certification required every five (5) years.
  - Subcontractors
    - CCO certified or equivalent
    - Equivalent =
      - American Crane Training
      - Crane Inspection & Certification Bureau
      - Crane Institute of America
      - North American Crane Bureau




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**Integrated Work  
Plans  
(IWP)**




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**Planning**

- Critical lifts
  - Gross load to be lifted is greater than 80% of rated capacity.
  - Load or boom will pass over an existing building during the lifting operation.
  - Gross load to be lifted is greater than 75% when erecting steel or hoisting concrete.




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**Planning**

- Engineered lifts
  - Gross load is greater than 90% of rated capacity.
  - Load being lifted is an especially critical component.
  - Two or more cranes will be used.




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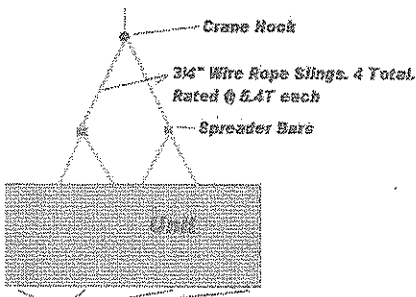
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**Critical Pick**



Crane Hook  
 3/4" Wire Rope Slings, 4 Total,  
 Rated @ 5.1T each  
 Spreader Bar  
 Unit  
 4" wide x 20' Long Synthetic Web Slings (Class 5),  
 6 Total, Rated @ 5T each.




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### Inspections

- Difficult to overstate the importance.
- Required by law.
- Will increase safety and reliability.
- Both ANSI (B 30.5) and OSHA (1926 and 1910 ) have requirements.



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### Inspections, con't

- Running rope removed from service if
  - 6 broken wires in 1 lay.
  - 3 broken wires in 1 strand in 1 lay.
  - 1/3 diameter wear on outside wires.
  - Kinking.
  - Crushing.
  - Bird caging.
  - Distortion.
  - Heat damage.



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### Inspections, con't

- Standing rope removed if:
  - More than 2 broken wires in 1 lay not at end.
  - More than 1 broken wire at end fitting.
  - Any reason for removing running rope.



Look here for broken wires /

removed from service



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**Testing**

- Load testing after repairs or alterations
  - Must be written
  - Cannot exceed 110% of rated load



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**Site Review and Setup**

- Supporting surfaces.
- Power lines.
- Access and usability.
- Working area.
- Work review and planning.
- Crane set up.



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**Supporting Surface**

- Compressive strength of the soil.
  - Two methods to calculate the outrigger support area
    - 3 times the area of the float
    - Crane capacity divided by five (5)
- Site drainage.
- Spring or fall freeze / thaw considerations.
- Adjacent excavations or structures.



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**Supporting Surface, con't**

- Blocking or cribbing
  - Transmit load.
  - Plywood vs. steel plate.
  - Minimum thickness.
  - Manufacturer's specifications.
  - Cable reel ends?




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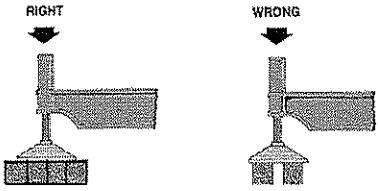

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**Supporting Surface, con't**

- Proper placement
  - ANSI requirements.
  - No gaps between pieces.


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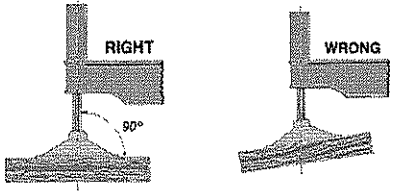

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**Supporting Surface, con't**

- Level
  - Jack cylinder rod and float at 90 degrees.
  - On slope, will slide downhill.


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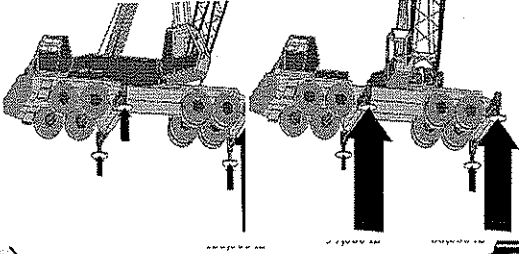
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**Supporting Surface, con't**

- Loads applied by floats
  - Load changes every time crane swings, booms, telescopes, or hoists.



The diagram illustrates a crane mounted on a float. It shows the crane's boom and hoist system. Arrows point to the contact points between the float and the ground, indicating the supporting surface. The crane is shown in two slightly different positions to demonstrate how the load on the supporting surface changes as the crane's components move.

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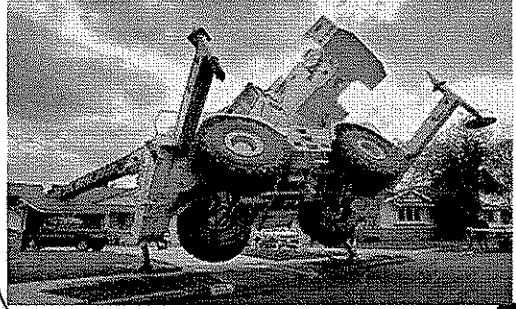
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**Short Sided Outriggers**



The photograph shows a crane with four outriggers. The outriggers on the left side are significantly shorter than those on the right side. The crane is positioned on uneven ground, which could lead to instability. A 'ZERO MARGINS' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the image frame.

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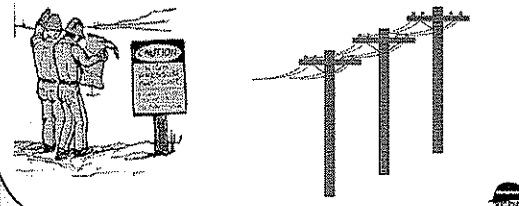
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**Visible and Hidden Hazards**

- Often overlooked
- Sometimes noticed but not considered serious



The illustration depicts two workers in safety gear standing next to a 'CAUTION' sign. In the background, there are utility poles with power lines. This highlights the danger of hidden hazards that may not be immediately obvious to workers.

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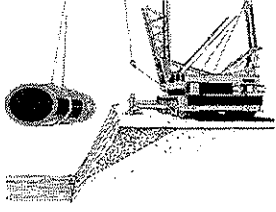
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**Visible and Hidden Hazards, con't**

- Setting up close to excavation
  - Soil type determines minimum distance.
- People in the excavation



The diagram shows a crane on a raised platform lifting a large cylindrical load into an excavation pit. A person is visible inside the excavation, illustrating the hazard of being in the path of the load.

ZERO HAZARD

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**Visible and Hidden Hazards, con't**

- Crane selection
  - heaviest load weight(s) to be lifted.
  - boom length required.
  - greatest radius and height at which the load(s) must be handled.

**A LIFT MUST NEVER BE PLANNED WHICH EXCEEDS THE PUBLISHED CAPACITY OF A CRANE!**

ZERO HAZARD

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**Visible and Hidden Hazards, con't**

- Time and space considerations enter the picture when deciding whether a lattice boom or hydraulic crane will best serve the project's needs.
- Each type of machine has strong and weak points.
- A few important factors to keep in mind when assessing what type of crane will best serve the project are as follows:

ZERO HAZARD

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### Rigging

- Estimating Loads
  - Look at shipping ticket.
  - Look at shop drawings.
  - Calculate weight of load.



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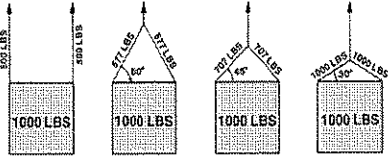
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### Sling Angles

- Sling Angle: Position of sling relative to horizontal
  - Tension in sling increases as angle to horizontal decreases.
- Note changes from left to right
  - Sling tension doubles, weight remains the same.



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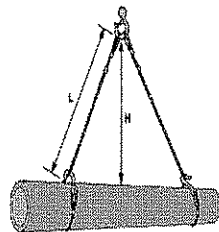
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### Determining Sling Angle

- Determining Sling Tension
  - Riggers and Operators should know how to calculate sling angle factor

$$\frac{L}{H} = \text{Sling loading factor}$$



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**Determine Sling Loading**

- To calculate sling tension: (2 legs)
  - Divide total weight by two (2).
  - Multiply by sling angle factor.




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**Types of Hitches**


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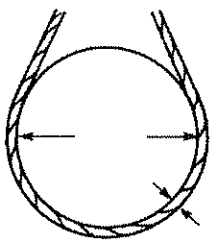

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**Determine Strength Reduction**

- D / d Ratio
  - D = Diameter of ben
  - d = Diameter of sling


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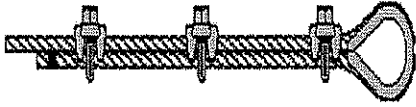
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**Wire Rope Clamps**

- OSHA requirements
- Proper torque



Not allowed for slings and bridles




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**Sling Removal Criteria**

- Wire Rope Slings (con't)
  - Remove from service if:
    - 10 broken wires in 1 lay.
    - 5 broken wires in 1 strand, 1 lay.
    - Severe abrasion.
    - Distorted rope structure.
    - End attachments damaged or worn.
    - 1/3 wear of outside wire.
    - Heat damage.




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**Nylon Sling Removal Criteria**

- Synthetic web slings
  - Easy to use, lightest, less likely to damage load
  - Easily damaged
  - Use special fittings
  - Tags required
  - Safety yarn




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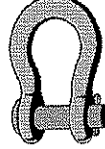
**Rigging Devices**

- Shackles
  - Recommended types:
    - Screw pin
    - Bolt


YES



NO



YES



ZERO HAZARD

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**Rigging Devices**


YES



NO



NO



Tail Length\*

Crosby says tail is 6 rope diameters except for rotation resistant which is 20 rope diameters.

ZERO HAZARD

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**Rigging Equipment**

- Must take damaged or defective equipment out of service
  - Do not overload.
  - Custom-made equipment.

ZERO HAZARD

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### Exercise 1- Lattice Boom

Crane: Manitowoc 4100 Series 2  
 Base: Crawlers Extended  
 Boom: No. 22C Open Throat Top 180 ft  
 Jib: No. 123 40 ft 10 Degree Offset  
 Block: 200 Ton w/4 Parts 4815 lb  
 Ball: 15 Ton 30 ft Below Jib 865 lb  
 Counterweight: 146,400 lb Upper & 60,000 lb Lower  
 Gantry: Raised

You must hoist a load that weighs 80,620 lb with rigging that weighs 1800 lb. Before starting understand Reading & Using a Manitowoc Chart. Note that on Manitowoc cranes all hoist rope below the boom and jib is part of the load. Calculate the gross load at 50 ft radius.

Solution on next slide

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### Exercise 1 - Lattice Boom

Solution

*The full length in use is boom length times # of parts times weight per ft, or boom length plus jib length times # of parts times weight per ft. Full length not in use is 10 ft or as given.*

Load	80,620 lb	
Rigging	1,800	
Block	4,815	
Ball	865	
Effective Jib	3,600	
Block Rope	1,685	$4 \times 180 \times 2.34 = 1,684.8$
Ball Rope	70	$30 \times 2.34 = 70.2$
	93,455 lb	= Gross Load

Could the load be handled at a longer radius?  
 What are the minimum parts of line required for this lift?  
 Is this lift limited by tipping or strength?

Answers on next slide

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### Exercise 1 - Lattice Boom

No, the load can not be handled at a longer radius. The capacity at 55 ft radius is only 88,500 lb.

For minimum parts of line look at the chart titled Hoist Reeving For Main Load Block. Three parts would handle up to 97,500 lb and we are not lifting the jib, ball, or ball rope.

The lift is limited by tipping, because there is no asterisk beside capacity.

Capacity at 50' radius = 101,000 lbs  
 Capacity at 55' radius = 88,500 lbs

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### Contingency Planning

- Certain occurrences which may not necessarily come into play during a lifting operation must nonetheless be covered by planning.
- Emergency Response/Crisis Management - Action plans and phone numbers need to be clearly understood and readily accessible in the event a mishap should occur. This information must current and available on all projects but may need to be reviewed and re-emphasized in anticipation of especially critical procedures.



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### Contingency Planning, con't

- A weather envelope for critical lifting procedures should be established prior to starting. Wind is the most common factor which needs to be dealt with. Crane manufacturers generally provide some type of guidance in this area.
- However, load size, shape and elevation need to be considered in establishing limitations. 20-30 mph is generally viewed as a reasonable maximum wind speed for low level, small wind areas of operation.



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### Contingency Planning, con't

- Darkness - Procedural problems can occur which delay the best planned operation. Such delays can extend beyond daylight hours. Lift starting time limitations and artificial lighting alternatives are subjects worthy of consideration.
- Shift Changes - Delays can extend complex lifting operations beyond shift deadlines. Plans for such an occurrence may need to be put in place.
- Spectator Control - Rumors of any heavy lifting operation circulate quickly on a worksite, and the procedure draws much attention. The dangers inherent in this occurrence are twofold. First, unnecessary personnel in the immediate area of the lifting operation will be exposed to and possibly even cause a mishap. Second, workers performing unrelated tasks can easily be distracted and injured. Off-peak or non-standard work times may be worth considering for unique lift operations if this risk is judged to be excessive.



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**Questions  
and  
Answers**

*Jim Walter ♦ Crane Risk Management ♦ VPP Conference*

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