

SAFE WORK PRACTICES OVERHEAD CRANE OPERATION

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

1. Move crane controls smoothly. Avoid abrupt, jerky movements of the load. Remove slack from the sling and hoisting ropes before the load is lifted.
2. Before moving a load, lifting devices must be fully seated in the saddle of the hook.
3. Follow signals only from one sling in charge of the lift, except for a stop signal.
4. Ensure all loose materials, parts, blocking and packing have been removed from the load before lifting.
5. Make sure everyone is away from the load before hoisting. Sound the bell, siren or other warning device and start to hoist slowly.
6. Ensure the load is not linked or caught against obstructions while raising or travelling.
7. Keep the load under control when lowering a load. If the braking system stops working, the load can usually be lowered by reversing the hoist controller to the first or second point.
8. Before leaving a crane:
 - Remove a load hanging on crane hooks.
 - Raise all hooks to a mid position.
 - Spot the crane at a designated location.
 - Place all controls in the OFF position.
 - Open the main switch to the OFF position.

DON'T:

- Operate a crane if limit switches are out of order, or if cables show defects.
- Lower the blocks below the point where less than two full wraps of cable remain on the drum.
- Attempt lifts beyond the rated load capacity of a crane or slings.
- Lift load from the side. Center the crane directly over the load before hoisting to avoid swinging the load.
- Allow anyone to ride on a load or hooks.
- Leave slings dangling from the load hook. Have sling hooks placed on the sling ring when carrying slings to the load.
- Raise loads higher than necessary to clear objects.
- Pass a load over workers.
- Reverse a motor until it has come to a full stop, except to avoid accidents.