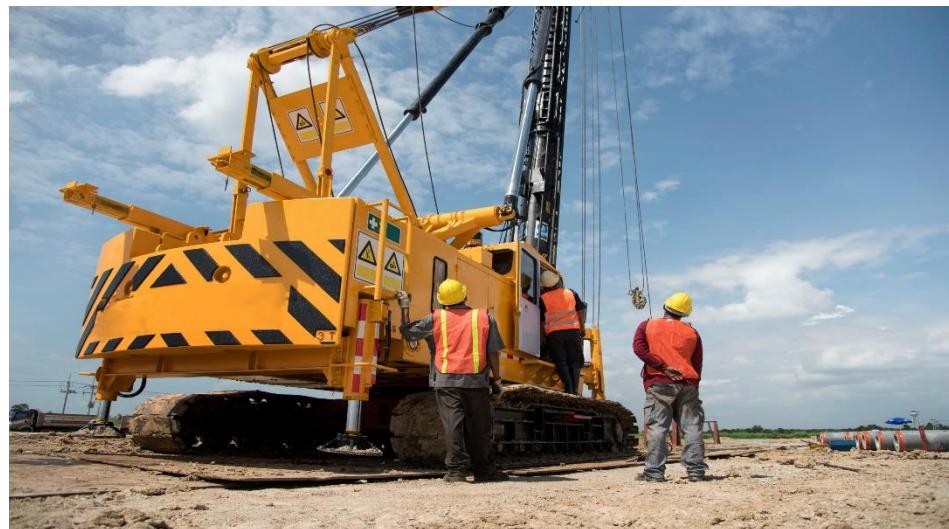


## Working Around Cranes: Safety Tips

Crane-related accidents in the United States result in an average of 42 fatalities per year. The leading causes include being struck by objects or equipment, contact with power lines, and crane collapses. Between 2011 and 2017, 297 crane-related deaths were recorded, with the majority occurring in the private construction and manufacturing sectors. States with the highest number of fatal crane incidents include Texas, Florida, California, and New York. Experience can often be the harshest teacher when it comes to working around cranes. While lessons learned on the job are valuable, they can sometimes come at a high cost. For instance, one worker carrying cement walked between a crawler crane and a building column, only to be fatally crushed when the crane swung and pinned him between the counterweight and the column. In another case, a worker was electrocuted when the crane's load-made contact with a live power line while he was leaning on the crane frame, chatting with a colleague. Today, we'll discuss the do's and don'ts when working around cranes to help prevent such incidents.



### Stay Clear of Suspended Loads

One of the best ways to protect yourself when working around cranes is to avoid being under suspended hooks or loads. Although proper rigging techniques can reduce the risk, there's always a chance that a load could shift or fall during a lift. It only takes one mistake for a serious injury or even a fatality. Also, steer clear of swinging loads—large beams or other heavy materials can crush you if they make contact.

### Visibility is Key

It's important to remember that the crane operator may not be able to see you. The operator is focused on positioning the crane and moving the load. Think of the swing area of the crane as a "no-go zone." Stay out of this area to avoid getting caught in the swing path, as the crane won't be able to stop if you're in the way.

### Avoid Leaning on the Crane

Don't use the crane as a leaning post. If the crane's boom or load comes-into contact with a live power line, you could face a life-threatening electrical shock. It's tragic that some workers don't follow this advice, as seen in the earlier example, where a worker's failure to avoid the crane led to fatal consequences. Always stay clear of the crane to avoid this risk.

## **Wear Your Hard Hat**

With overhead work being a common part of crane operations, wearing a hard hat is essential for protection. Concrete or other debris falling from lifted loads can cause severe head injuries if you're not properly protected.

## **Avoid Riding the Hook**

Some workers may be tempted to skip the stairs or personnel hoists and instead "ride the hook." This is extremely dangerous and one of the riskiest ways to get around the site. Never attempt this.

## **Exercise Extra Caution**

Cranes are incredible machines that make work easier, but their size and power also make them hazardous. That's why it's so important to exercise extra caution when working around them. Taking the time to be aware of the risks can prevent serious injuries or fatalities on the job. Always prioritize safety when operating or working near cranes.

## **Summary**

Working around cranes requires heightened awareness and caution due to the significant hazards they present. Always stay clear of suspended loads and avoid areas where the crane operator can't see you, as the swing path can be dangerous. Never lean on the crane, especially near power lines, and always wear a hard hat to protect against falling debris. Avoid risky behavior like "riding the hook" and ensure you are using proper equipment like stairs or hoists for transportation. Cranes are powerful tools, but without careful attention, they can lead to serious injuries or fatalities.



# SAFETY TRAINING SIGN IN SHEET

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