



Yard Crane operation and Safety

This SSOP provides guidance on the safe use of Yard Crane operation and Safety used in landscaping, construction, and agricultural operations. As with any equipment or tools, the most basic premise for safe operation is reading and adhering to the manufacturer's instructions and warnings. This SSOP is not a substitute for the owner's manual produced by the manufacturer.

Schedule: Daily for assignments that require lifting oversized and/ or objects to raised, level, and lower than ground level surface

PPE Requirements: Hard hat, high vis safety vest, ear plugs, safety glasses, warning signage, pants, closed toe shoes

Safety Requirements: Spotter/ ground hand, barricades, warning signage, know machine lift limits, weight of object, tie off points, correct and pre inspected lifting apparatus, ground mats, ground if equipped, machine leveled.

Safety Hazards: Vehicle and pedestrian traffic, Tip points, load leveling, overhead Utilities, lifting, bending, overhead objects, dust, noise, sharp objects, blind spots, equipment malfunction, pinch points, hot or cold temperatures, and inclement weather.

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Crane lift procedure

Yard Crane operation is a crucial element of our work. Operating safely is the most important element. A crane needs to be used when lifting heavy objects on to raised, lowered or even same elevation platforms. Operation requires slow movement and precision guidance.

Before you operate

- All fluids and levels need to be checked
- Inspect cable for frays or breaks.

- Check for any visual signs of hydraulic leaks. Cylinders, hoses, fittings, etc.
- Tires inflated to proper PSI according to tire manufacture specs. PSI ratings listed on the sidewall of the tires.
- Lights and horns in working order
- Check outriggers for cracks or breaks.
- All grease points greased every 8 hours of operation
- Make sure seat belt is operational
- Up to date full Fire extinguisher on machine

Jobsite details

- Do not drive into wet grass areas. Mats and outriggers pads must be used.
- Look at distance to the landing for the item you're setting.
- Barricade off 10' outside of the tip zone of the crane. (tip zone is the area in which if the crane were to tip over that the machine could fall in exp. Height of boom measured out from center of machine in a 360-degree range.)
- What is overhead? Power lines, trees, light poles, building edges, etc.
- Identify a spotter. Only one person giving directions to the crane operator.
- Everyone must be wearing a hardhat within the tip zone of the crane.
- Everyone in the tip zone must be wearing safety vest.
- Identify and maneuver the machine to lift at the best possible visual point. Always try to lift from the nose of the machine.
- Proper lifting components such as straps and tie off points. (never lift with chains)
- Make sure the straps are not frayed or torn. Look at the manufacture date and discard any straps over 4 years old.
- Make sure outriggers are on a solid surface and do not slide.
- Machine needs to be level before lifting.

Lifting procedure-

- Once spotter is identified make sure you have established proper hand signals. (hand signal label mounted on the cradle by the operator's seat)
- Spotter needs to always remain in a visual position to the operator.
- Make sure load is leveled before lifting (an unlevel or unbalanced load could cause a load shift and fall)
- Minimum of 2 lead lines should be attached at opposite corners of the load to guide it safely. Each line should be long enough that staff can stay out from under the load.
- Do not pick the load up any higher than necessary. Keep close the ground as possible.
- At no point should anyone be under the load.
- Operation should be done at a slow even speed. **Do not get in a hurry**

- Always allow the weight to hang freely. Do not pull it over to the tie pint. Have operator move the crane into the proper position.
- When lifting do so easily, to prevent the load from swinging into anything or anyone.
- Safety is everyone's responsibility. As the operator you are obligated to shut the job down until all safety measures are addressed.

