

Readers *Letters*

Dear Sir,

Re your article "Tower Crane Trends" February 2008
I would like to remark on Paul Phillip's statement; "there is more than enough information covering the safe erection, use, maintenance and dismantling of cranes, but no-one appears bothered to either read it or take note of what it says".

It goes far beyond what Mr. Phillips states about those entrusted with such operations and their apparent ignorance to follow "basic" manufacturers / engineering guidelines. Information alone is not enough. Here in the USA, tower crane manufactures (with their record \$ profits) should be mandated to offer hands-on training with regards to erection, dismantling, and especially the climbing of tower cranes.

Technicians and Inspectors should be certified by the manufacturer to perform / oversee such high-risk operations. I believe Florida's "pending" new tower crane regulations are a step in the right direction, but doubt it will be enforced. Unfortunately it will take a catastrophic accident before specialized certification is mandatory.

Terry McGettigan

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Leigh and Mark...

I wanted to point out something from Jan/Feb Cranes & Access.

On page 19 in the 2007 Review under the heading "Outreach", you show a photo of two people in the platform of a boom lift that are not wearing a harness. I realize that this was "only" a publicity shot, but it doesn't matter. All people in boom lifts must wear a harness whether they are on the ground or 100ft. in the air. There is a big problem in that many companies think they don't have to wear a harness if they are not elevated. This is particularly true in some rental companies when they are moving boom lifts around a yard or in and out of service bays. We need to correct this, and seeing a photo like the one on page 19 doesn't help this cause. This photo was even more problematic as the company that these people represent is an IPAF and ALLMI training center. They should know better.

Best regards...

Bill William Hindman, President
Industrial Marketing Services
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I note your online editorial comment on Outrigger mats and the fact that a number of hire companies do not provide them. While you may have a valid point, there is another side to this which I feel the industry needs to sort out. The responsibility for setting up a machine properly clearly belongs to the person hiring the machine. Unless we do a site survey there is no way we can know what the ground conditions are like and what size pad the user needs.

If we supply the customer with a half metre pad, and the ground is too soft, requiring larger ones, we might be accused of supplying the wrong equipment? Surely IPAF should draw attention to this issue and survey its members in order to draw up a common industry policy on it? It should include any changes to standard terms and conditions which reference this issue.

We have now decided to purchase a number of pads and will insist that those hiring trailer lifts and other such platforms that include outriggers also take/hire a set of mats at an extra cost. However unless everyone follows suit we will be putting ourselves at a commercial disadvantage which brings me back to the need for an industry standard.

Yours truly,

Name supplied but withheld.

Ed: While we fully agree with Mr Hindman and he does make a very important and valid point, we also need to point out that the photo concerned was cropped close hiding the fact that it was not a regular boom lift, but an oil drilling rig maintenance basket not subject to cantilever/catapult problems. It does raise an issue regarding management publicity shots, it is either don a harness or use a scissor lift.

Letters to the editor

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