

Greetings all. Today's Bulletin is about the Worksafe Victoria Mobile Crane Inspection Blitz.

As you know, like any construction activity, mobile crane operation can be hazardous if conducted in an improper manor without the necessary checks and safeguards.

The generally close proximity of cranes to public areas requires a heightened awareness and level of due diligence. In recent times there have been reports of damage to private property caused by a crane. This can happen for a number of reasons that have been discussed in many previous CICA bulletins.



In light of this, Worksafe Victoria with the support and cooperation of CICA and the crane industry has conducted targeted blitz of construction sites where mobile cranes were operating, focussing on:

- hazards/risks that cause serious or fatal injuries near miss incidents
- gathering data on OHS legislation compliance and effective risk controls associated with specific hazards
- identifying areas of non-compliance that require further education activity

The inspectors followed a common checklist containing many items that have featured in these safety bulletins including the condition of equipment, correct use of plant and of course, the evidence and documentation of risk assessments and compliance.

The stats

130
inspectorate visits conducted

87
duty holders/crane owners received at least one visit

14
different types of cranes inspected

29
instances of non-compliance found

With 130 cranes inspected and 29 non compliances recorded, there is definitely some room for improvement here. With the large amount of construction work

occurring at the moment, now more than ever do we need to ensure we are compliant and safe.

What we found?

The most common issues were related to:



Poorly maintained plant



Poorly maintained lifting equipment



Poor planning in crane setup



Failure to follow major inspection regime

These areas highlighted above, are a timely reminder that maintenance of cranes and condition of lifting equipment is key. It doesn't matter how well you do your job if the equipment you're using is not up to scratch.

Also, lack of planning is a big contributor to incidents as pointed out in previous bulletins discussing the statistics around incident causal factors.

What enforcement action was taken?

19

Improvement notices issued

2

Prohibition notices issued

7

Contravention's remedied at time of inspection

There were only 2 prohibition notices issued in the findings of the blitz, which serves as warning that if operators are not prepared to adequately maintain their equipment, carry out the necessary risk assessments and conduct their work in a safe manner, they will be removed from the job.

To close out the loop, Worksafe will be conducting follow up inspections at crane hire depots and yards.

At the end of the day we are left with the stark reminder that the two most common issues detected by the Worksafe inspectors are in the top three causal factors that contribute heavily to the incidents that occur.

- **Lack of planning – Crane Setup**
- **Poor Condition of plant or Equipment**
- **Unsafe work Practises**

A positive however is the low detection rate of unsafe work practises which would indicate that the majority of operators are trying to do the right thing with the equipment and circumstances they are presented with. Perhaps our safety culture is alive and well out on site but we have room for improvement back in the yard when it comes to inspecting and maintaining our gear..

Safety wise, there are some good opportunities for improvement, and this report gives us plenty to think about moving forward.

Stay Safe -CICA

Mobile crane blitz

August - October 2019



Why we did it

Recently WorkSafe inspectors attended **three serious incidents** where heavy machinery at construction sites overturned and landed on occupied residential housing.

What we did in response

Targeted inspectorate visits to **construction sites where mobile cranes were present** – focusing on:

- ▶ hazards/risks that cause serious or fatal injuries near miss incidents
- ▶ gathering data on OHS legislation compliance and effective risk controls associated with specific hazards
- ▶ identifying areas of non-compliance that require further education activity.

Inspectors completed a checklist at each site visit, specifically checking:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> licences to perform high risk work | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWMS |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> logbooks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> for obvious defects |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> service records | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> operational warning devices |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> crane set up is according to standards | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> that traffic management is in place (where relevant) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exclusion zones | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> load charts and manuals |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lifting gear inspections | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> that appropriate lifting gear is being used (within load capacity). |

How we communicated this to the industry

We utilised our WorkSafe digital channels to communicate with the industry, this included:



e-newsletter
to construction
subscribers.
**21840
recipients**



a **Facebook**
post which
received
**30 shares
28 likes**