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## 15 important things you should know about Crane Safety

1. Operators now have to be certified (effective June 2005). See Cal-OSHA Section 5006.1
2. Newer cranes are engineered to closer tolerances (can break before tipping over). The weight of the load must be known before lifting.
3. Cranes need to be set up in an area with enough space to fully extend outriggers.
4. Two feet minimum clearance required between fixed object and counterweight (swing clearance).
5. Providing barrier tape around the perimeter of the swing is a safety “best practice”.
6. Don’t swing the load over workers and don’t get under the load!
7. Clearance from overhead high voltage power lines starts out at a minimum of 10 feet.
8. Do not get near crane, load or load line when it contacts high voltage line. A crane boom or hoist line can contact an overhead high voltage line, energize a chain link fence below and injure or electrocute a worker hundreds of feet away. Always be alert for overhead lines.
9. Operator (and rigger) must make sure load is exactly below boom tip and hoist line is vertical, otherwise, the load can swing as it comes off the ground.
10. Tags lines are a good idea and are required in specific situations. Sometimes using tag lines can be more dangerous than not using them at all.
11. Keep sling angles high (the longer the sling legs, the better). Always choke the load.
12. Slings made with wire rope clips are not allowed for lifting service.
13. There is out of service criteria for wire rope slings, hoist lines, etc. which riggers should know well.



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- 14.Chain slings used for lifting service must be alloy steel and designed for the purpose (usually a capital A stamped on each link).
- 15.Workers who signal cranes must be trained and use approved signals.