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Qualified Support Personnel

At Pro Crane we pride ourselves on the measures taken by our staff to stay current on all training requirements that apply to the job, even if that means going a step beyond. You may have heard that an upcoming OSHA mandate will require all personnel engaged in the operation of a crane to be certified through an accredited organization. What you may not know is Pro Crane has been doing just that for years. In fact, we have operators who are on their second and third recertification...impressive, considering that renewals are done in five year intervals.

Did you know that OSHA also requires a degree of qualification to engage in the ancillary duties of crane work as well? Both riggers and signal personnel are required under OSHA regulations to be "qualified" for their respective tasks. That means in order to be compliant, training and testing must be completed in all respective tasks. At Pro Crane, all of our certified crane operators are qualified riggers and signal personnel. Furthermore, being qualified in one ancillary duty does not automatically qualify you for another. Each skill set is taught and tested separately, as knowledge to be proficient in each area varies greatly. Additionally, having one on-site crane worker who is qualified in all three skill sets does not guarantee that the lifting process is in compliance. This will vary from lift to lift.

When using Pro Crane, you can rest assured knowing our people are fully trained, accredited and can perform any of the aforementioned tasks. Even though our operators are qualified to perform any of the tasks required, they can only perform one duty at a time. Therefore, as a customer please keep in mind, when we provide you with an operator and no secondary personnel, you may not be OSHA compliant when it comes to rigging and signaling.

For example, when lifting an object from an area outside the view of the operator, he/she can select the appropriate rigging equipment necessary for the object to be lifted properly, but may be unavailable to attach the rigging to the object. Therefore, the operator may need another individual to complete this task. If the rigging equipment is attached to the object by unqualified personnel, then the operator would need to take the time to verify that the rigging is in compliance. Undoubtedly, this is an extremely inefficient use of the operator's time, especially if there are multiple objects or a considerable distance between the crane and object.

Now that the rigging is under control, let's talk about hand signals. There is no other way to get around this part of the operation without having a second, qualified person on-site. It is imperative that the operator

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have a second set of eyes to direct the crane's movement. OSHA clearly states that if the load is outside the operator's view, only qualified signal personnel shall give signals.

Let me guess what you are thinking. Pro Crane should just provide extra staff so that our customers need not worry about compliancy issues? We absolutely can! We are more than happy to provide all the necessary personnel at the request of our customers. However, as OSHA states, it is ultimately up to the "controlling entity" to ensure those who engage in the overhead lifting are qualified. Which means our customer, the on-site general contractor, or the owner of the facility is generally responsible for providing a second, qualified individual.

In short, it is important to make sure that those involved in the lift have been trained. Whether requesting additional personnel from us, or training those in your own workforce is your choice. If training your employees is the ultimate goal, we at Pro Crane are more than willing to discuss the many options available to you.

Just another reason why Pro Crane is here...to make sure you are aware of OSHA standards and so you can get the most out of your training investment.

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