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Behind the Scenes – Lift Planning

Have you ever heard anyone talk about “the Five P’s - Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance?” It is fun to say and are wise words to live by as well. We live by this motto day-in, day-out, in the lifts we skillfully complete. It applies to all aspects of the job, especially when planning crane work on your jobsite. In the industry, it is called “lift planning.” You may not even realize that it takes place, but it is a critical step in the safe and efficient operation of a crane.

Upon contacting Pro Crane, you may notice that we ask a lot of questions. There is a good reason for this. The very second we begin discussing your project with you, we begin developing a lift plan. Determining the appropriate equipment selection and understanding additional factors that may impact the lift is at the heart of a lift plan. The more information a lift planner has upfront, the higher the rate of execution without injury or adversity.

Lift plans come in two basic categories: Standard Lift Procedure Plan and Critical Lift Plan.

The Standard Lift Procedure Plan is the simpler version, typically seen on our work order form, and provides our operator’s the basic weight, height, rigging, and radius information. This form is utilized when none of the elements of the project qualify for the second type of lift plan.

The Critical Lift Plan is used when one or more of the following criteria is met: the object is of monetarily high value, has ‘critical path’ significance to a project, exceeds 75% of the crane’s chart capacity, requires multi-crane or “tandem” lifting, uses personnel lifting, the customer requires a crane to meet contractual obligations, or based upon judgement, our manager or operator believes it does not qualify as a “standard” lift.

A Critical Lift Plan can include all or any combination of the following: a structurally engineered and approved rigging plan, soil testing to calculate ground bearing capacity, pre-lift meeting interactive worksheets that provide a walk-through for the whole lift team, and providing a lift director at the time of the lifting operation. Features such as structural engineering and soil testing must be outsourced to professionals who specialize in these fields prior to the planning of your lift plan.

Both The Standard Lift Procedure Plan and the Critical Lift Plan share the same basic characteristics, they are: written out, reviewed by a competent person, shared with the operator, and archived for future reference. Therefore, we are providing a service you more than likely did not realize you had, but will always need.