

Overhead Hazards

PROTECTION OF WORKERS AND THE PUBLIC

On Site Overhead Hazards

► Considerations

1. Elevated workers handling tools, equipment, materials
2. Elevated loads on crane operations
3. Elevated power lines near workers and/or heavy equipment
4. Overhead protuberances such as ceilings, utilities, etc.

► Applicable OSHA Standards

- 1926.502 Fall protection systems and criteria (falling objects)
- 1910.179 Overhead and gantry cranes (falling objects)
- 1926.1400 – 1442 Cranes, etc. (protection of workers from falling, falling objects, overhead power lines)

Off Site Overhead Hazards

- ▶ OSHA standards only apply to workers, vendors accessing sites, etc.

Some of the OSHA regulations for protecting workers do secondarily protect the public. For example, OSHA requires a placarding:

"...a sign or notice for display in a public place such as for; of parked equipment, barricading of open trenches or the swing-radius of a crane, and using flaggers at traffic work zones. However, these are few and indirect."

Off Site Overhead Hazards – Cont.

- ▶ [ANSI/ASSE A10.34-2001 \(R2005\)](#), Protection of the Public on or Adjacent to Construction (from ANSI/ASSE consensus standards)

"All persons and property not affiliated with the construction project. This includes invitees to the construction project who are not employed by the contractors."

NOTE: Trespassers are excluded from both (OSHA & ANSI/ASSE) definitions of the public. Signs on the work site should say "No Trespassers" to defend the company and owner's property rights.

Protection of entry and exit points



Protection from falling objects



Overhead
hazard concerns:

protection from
multiple levels of
work areas



Scaffolding

Boom lifts

The public

Solutions for a quick overhead entrance



In metropolitan areas, pedestrian traffic can be very high during rush hour.

Contractors should have a plan in place to address these high-traffic times, as needed.

Crane Considerations

Is the crane plan adequate?

What workers are exposed to falling loads or objects?

Can administrative controls be used to prevent worker exposure?

Other considerations?



Letter of Interpretation - Cranes

- ▶ "In normal construction operations, OSHA does not consider the boom, load line, and load block of a crane to be "objects" which could become falling objects and thus require overhead protection in addition to hard hats. If overhead hazards are not present, then OSHA does not require additional protective systems to address overhead hazards."
- ▶ Letter of Interpretation regarding 1926.1431(e)(10)
- ▶ <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2014-04-21-1>

Situational Awareness



Falling Object Protection



Falling Object Protection



Thank You

► Q & A