



Crane Accidents from NIs – Mobile Cranes & Boom Trucks

A Notice of Accident (NI) is a preliminary report of an accident that WorkSafeBC Prevention officers respond to. The NI is based on information obtained as soon as possible after the accident, but before an investigation into causes has been completed. It is intended to provide employers and workers with timely information regarding the type of accidents occurring within industry.

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2004	2005	2006 Preliminary
16	34	30
Date of Accident : 2004-Feb		
A 23.5-ton truck crane overturned while attempting to lift a replacement power pole into position.		
Date of Accident : 2004-May		
A truck-mounted crane was unloading lumber on a residential construction site. When the equipment was overloaded, it was pulled over onto its side and the operator was injured.		
Date of Accident : 2004-May		Rigging Accident
A crane operator was lifting a large granite rock with two fibre slings when the rock shifted and one fibre sling broke. The rock turned, pinning the operator's leg against the truck bed bull board.		
Date of Accident : 2004-May		
The jib section on a mobile crane failed during the lifting of a log that exceeded the crane's safe working load limit.		
Date of Accident : 2004-May		
A built-up wood beam failed when it was used as a lifting beam during a dual-crane lift of a 50' x 80' preassembled roof weighing approximately 30,000 pounds.		
Date of Accident : 2004-May		
A 15-ton mobile crane was lifting a 7-ton concrete block over the rear of the crane. When the operator swung the load to the side, the crane tipped over.		
Date of Accident : 2004-Jun		
A 27.5-ton rough terrain mobile crane overturned while backing down the access ramp to a barge.		
Date of Accident : 2004-Jul		
A mobile crane tipped over while attempting to pick up a single section of steel pipe (estimated to weigh 1,000 pounds).		
Date of Accident : 2004-Jul		
Workers were unhooking slings from a 730 kg (1,600 lb) steel building truss located on a flatbed trailer. The crane operator repositioned the crane's hook before the last sling was unhooked from the truss. Two workers were struck by		

the steel truss, with one worker thrown 3 metres to the ground.
Date of Accident : 2004-Jul
A mobile crane with a rated capacity of 50 tons upended while lifting and relocating a section of the log deck at a wood manufacturing operation.
Date of Accident : 2004- Aug
A 65-ton mobile crane was lifting an 800-pound roof section onto the roof of a mobile home. The loadline contacted a 14.4-kV transmission line.
Date of Accident : 2004- September
Two workers suffered minor injuries, after being struck by the boom of a mobile crane. The operator of the crane had not properly prepared the crane for transport and as a result the boom was not placed in the cradle and locked out prior to moving. This resulted in the boom swinging out of control striking worker(s)
Date of Accident : 2004-Oct
A worker's foot was crushed by a bridge crane being lifted by a mobile crane when the mobile crane flipped over onto its side.
Date of Accident : 2004-Oct
A portable cement mixer fell 30 feet into a tank when the whip line on a 22-ton mobile crane was two-blocked and then failed. The falling mixer narrowly missed a worker.
Date of Accident : 2004-Oct
Rigging Accident
A worker was injured while positioning a timber-frame truss being hoisted by a crane conducting a blind, radio-controlled lift from the other side of the house. The worker noticed that an eyebolt secured to the top of the cradle, and attached to the crane hook, had started to fail. The worker jumped from the ladder to the ground approximately 19 feet below. The rigging failed, and the truss and lifting device came off of the crane, falling and striking the worker.
Date of Accident : 2004-Dec
The boom of a truck-mounted crane inadvertently contacted an energized 25-kV overhead power line.
Date of Accident : 2005-Jan
A crane operator was preparing a hydraulic truck-mounted crane for travel on snow-covered inclines by moving the removable counterweights from the boom dolly to the crane carrier. When the load was swung towards the side, the crane tipped over.
Date of Accident : 2005-Jan
The load line of a hydraulic mobile crane contacted a 14-kV power line when the operator attempted to offload wooden trusses.
Date of Accident : 2005-Jan
Pile-driving equipment attached to an 80-ton crawler crane contacted an overhead 60-kV conductor. The leads suspended from the main line contacted the conductor and the charge exited through the crawler tracks.
Date of Accident : 2005-Jan
A worker was using a mobile crane whose outriggers had not been deployed. As the worker turned the crane, it became unstable and came to rest at a forty-five-degree angle against an empty flat deck trailer.

<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Jan</p> <p>The upper works of a 55-ton rough-terrain mobile crane broke away from the swing gear while hoisting equipment weighing 42.75 tons.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Jan</p> <p>While lifting a form that was stuck, a mobile crane became overloaded and its boom bent.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Jan</p> <p>A 440-ton mobile crane was being dismantled before being moved. It was not configured according to the manufacturer's instructions for moving. When the crane started to lean, the crew pulled it ahead to rectify the lean. As the crane was being moved ahead and turned, it started to upset. The crane boom landed atop a 60-ton mobile crane. The operator of this crane was able to get out of the cab and stay under the 60-ton crane until the area was safe.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Feb</p> <p>An 80-ton hydraulic mobile crane was placing a diesel generator on the second floor of a building under construction. The crane became unstable and toppled over into the building.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Mar</p> <p>An operator of a truck-mounted crane was unloading wall board, controlling the crane using a radio remote controller. The crane contacted an energized high-voltage power line.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Apr</p> <p>A mobile crane's boom contacted an adjacent structure while the crane was being moved over uneven ground. The crane's house had not been secured and its boom had not been stowed.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Apr</p> <p>The boom of a 500-ton hydraulic crane had been disconnected in preparation for transport on a flatbed trailer. A 65-ton hydraulic crane was moving the boom (30.5 tons) to the trailer. As the load was being lowered, the smaller crane's main cable broke. The load crashed down onto the flatbed trailer (3-4 feet below), and the three workers that were setting the boom onto the trailer were catapulted off. The main cable of the smaller crane showed signs of abrasion.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Apr</p> <p>During log home construction, a mobile crane was being used without outriggers. As the crane swung a hoisted log from the front of the crane to one side, the crane toppled over. The operator was pinned beneath the crane cab.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Apr</p> <p>A worker was operating a truck-mounted crane using a radio remote control. The worker was standing on the back of the truck on top of one end of a bundle of 12-foot 2x4s while the crane unloaded a lift of 4x8 sheets off of the 2x4s. The lift of plywood was unstable and several sheets slid free, landing on the opposite end of the 2x4s and causing the worker to fall to the truck deck.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Apr</p> <p>The boom of a 22-ton truck-mounted crane failed while lifting two boxes of waler bars.</p>

<p>Date of Accident : 2005-May</p> <p>A 35-ton mobile crane tipped over while lifting a 12-foot-long section of a standing fir tree. The weight of the tree section had been incorrectly calculated.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-May</p> <p>As a truck-mounted crane unloaded a lift of siding, its boom contacted a 25-kV overhead power line. The boom truck caught fire and a brush fire ignited at the scene.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Jun</p> <p>A truck-mounted crane flipped onto its side while performing a lift. The crane's front outriggers had not been deployed.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Jun</p> <p>An articulating boom crane used for handling drywall was in the process of stowing the forks in the cradle. The anchor for a boom extension chain failed, causing the boom section to slide out.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Jun</p> <p>A truck-mounted crane moved into a position that would allow a second delivery truck to get past. The crane boom contacted a phone line, causing a power pole to break off at the ground.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Jun</p> <p>A worker in a work platform attached to the top of a sheet piling wall was struck by the overhaul ball of an 80-ton crawler crane.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Jul</p> <p>While a 14-ton truck-mounted crane was unloading trusses, the load line contacted an energized overhead 25-kV power line.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Jul</p> <p>During road construction, a partial bridge section was being lifted by a truck-mounted crane. The mounting bolts securing the crane turret to the frame of a picker truck broke, and the crane separated from the truck.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Aug</p> <p>A 65-ton hydraulic mobile crane was being used to lift a gluelam beam (8 feet by 32 inches by 6 inches) into place. The beam was lowered through a hole in the roof of the mill and placed. Then the crane's main boom was inadvertently raised instead of lowered. The beam lodged against the mill roof and as the crane continued to pull, the tip section of the crane boom bent at the junction with the next larger section. The attached jib was not damaged.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Aug</p> <p>A mobile crane with a rated capacity of 35 tons was lifting a load of sawmill machinery through a roof opening. The crane lifted the load over the front and was swinging the load to the side when the crane tipped over. The load and boom crashed through the roof of the building.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Sep</p> <p>Two workers were using a truck-mounted crane with an attached pallet fork to lift a pallet of cultured rock off a truck. The crane suddenly lost its hydraulic pressure, causing the pallet of rock to fall. One worker was crushed.</p>

<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Sep</p> <p>The operator of a 45-ton crane attempted to make a lift on rubber, outside the crane's load radius capacity. The crane tipped onto its side.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Sep</p> <p>As a 20-ton crane attempted to swing a barge ramp into position, a front jack stabilizer failed, causing significant damage to the crane.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Oct</p> <p>The knuckle-boom extension on a truck-mounted crane broke free from the boom while moving a 2-ton load of materials raised approximately 5 feet above the ground.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Oct</p> <p>While lifting a form that was stuck, a mobile crane became overloaded and its boom bent.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Oct</p> <p>The driver was injured when a boom truck crane contacted an overhead energized 12-kV power line. The crane truck was working within the limits of approach for overhead high-voltage power transmission lines.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Oct</p> <p>A flatbed truck with an articulating boom crane delivered materials to a construction site. After the delivery, the truck drove away with the boom still extended above it. The boom contacted an overhead telephone line that was attached to a power transmission pole, pulling down the high-voltage power lines. There was no live wire contact with the truck or boom and the circuits locked out when the power lines came down onto the road.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Oct</p> <p>A worker on was on a building, unhooking trusses from a crane, when he fell approximately 20 feet to the ground.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Nov</p> <p>An unauthorized worker moved a 50-ton crane near an unstable bank. The bank collapsed, toppling the crane.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2005-Nov</p> <p>A 25-ton rough-terrain mobile crane was lifting a transfer chain assembly when the load shifted, causing the crane to tip over onto its side. The weight of the transfer chain assembly was more than the capacity of the crane and was not uniformly distributed.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-Jan</p> <p>While a 65-ton mobile crane was parked for the weekend, it tipped over when heavy rainfall eroded the soil under its tires.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-Jan</p> <p>While removing rigging, a crane operator inadvertently stepped onto a cantilevered beam. The beam tipped and the worker fell approximately 9 feet to the floor below.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-Feb</p> <p>A small oilfield building was rigged to be lifted by a 5-ton picker truck (crane truck). The operator applied tension as a second worker removed some bolts from the</p>

<p>pipings connected to the building. The operator could not see the other worker, who was on the opposite side of the building. When the last bolt was removed, the building began to lift. The worker grabbed the piping in order to control the swing of the building and was lifted off the ground. When the operator saw the worker he was about 10 feet in the air, moments later the worker released his grip and fell to the ground. A signal person is required whenever the operator of a crane is unable to see the rigger/worker.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-Mar</p> <p>As the partially assembled boom of a crawler crane was being hoisted, a component at the boom heel section failed. The second of two installed boom sections fell and landed on a front end loader. The manufacturer's assembly procedures had not been followed.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-Mar</p> <p>An operator two-blocked a mobile crane, causing the headache ball and rigging to drop to the ground.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-Apr</p> <p>As a 25-ton truck-mounted crane unloaded a bundle of wood frame trusses, its load line contacted an energized 14.4kV overhead conductor.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-Apr</p> <p>The operator of a crane truck was using a pendant control to rotate the vertical boom assembly within the limits of approach of an overhead high-voltage power line. The boom tip contacted the line; fortunately, the operator was able to drop the pendant control before he was injured by electricity traveling along the energized wire to the control</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-Apr</p> <p>The boom of a 17-ton truck-mounted crane was damaged while trying to lift a propane skid.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-May</p> <p>While a tug crew was securing a floating barge, a mobile crane placed a steel ramp in position to provide access to the barge. The moored barge then moved away from the crane. The ramp, which was still connected to the crane, shifted away from the crane and fell into the water, causing the crane to tip over and land on the pier.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-May</p> <p>A 30-ton rough-terrain mobile crane was overloaded. It tilted onto its side while unloading 2900 pounds of rebar.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-May</p> <p>While a truck-mounted crane was unloading trusses, the hoist line contacted a 12.5kV overhead electrical conductor.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-May</p> <p>As a worker disembarked from the cab of a mobile crane, he fell head first from the cab to the pavement below.</p>
<p>Date of Accident : 2006-May</p> <p>A dual crane lift was underway to remove the rotor assembly from a power-generating turbine. As the full weight of the load (660 tons) was taken by the two cranes, the drive motors on the cranes failed, and the load was dropped back into the turbine rotor support.</p>

Date of Accident : 2006-May

A truck-mounted crane was lifting a bundle of trusses off a trailer. The bundle slid sideways and off the next bundle, reached its tipping point, and fell until the lift chain came tight. This produced a shock load to the boom, causing ensile breaks to approximately 20 turret bolts.

Date of Accident : 2006-Jul

A mobile crane was hoisting a load of floor joists when the load block was two-blocked (contacted the end of the boom). The load line was completely severed, and the load fell to grade.

Date of Accident : 2006-Jul

A 40-ton truck-mounted crane tipped over while lifting structural steel joists to the top of a 2 storey concrete commercial building under construction. The crane operator was ejected from the cab and landed on the ground approximately 10 feet below. The steel joists were left hanging precariously on the top outer corner of the building.

Date of Accident : 2006-Aug

A worker helping to erect a two-piece offset fly on a 60-ton hydraulic truck crane was caught between the two swing arms.

Date of Accident : 2006-Aug

As a crane lifted a section of pipe, its load line contacted an overhead 25-kV power line.

Date of Accident : 2006-Sept

As a mobile crane traveled down a mountain, it encountered loose gravel and lost steering and braking control. The crane veered off the right side of the road and rolled 4 metres down the embankment.

An articulating crane was delivering a pallet load of shingles to the roof of a new home that was under construction. During the lift, the load fell from the forks of the crane. It struck and broke through the roof sheathing and trusses, landing on the floor below.

Date of Accident : 2006-Sept

A mobile crane was lowering a dozer boat from a dock into the water approximately 3 metres below the dock surface. The crane tipped, and both it and the attached boat sank into approximately 30 feet of water. The operator surfaced unassisted and swam to the dock.

Date of Accident : 2006-Sept

A crane hook separated from the load block while a 9,000-pound section of a vessel was being removed during a maintenance shutdown.

Date of Accident : 2006-Oct

A 165-ton lattice-boom truck-mounted crane was lifting a tilt-up panel wall weighing 63,000 pounds. With the panel almost vertical, the boom was lowered to place the panel on the footings. The two outriggers farthest from the panel started to lift off the ground. As the panel fell outwards, the operator lowered the load line to prevent the crane from tipping over. By the time the panel was horizontal on the ground. The crane body had been lifted approximately 45 degrees.

Date of Accident : 2006-Oct

During the 10-year complete tear-down of a crane, the employer discovered cracks connecting bolt hole to bolt hole on the mainframe where the turret (swing gear) is mounted.

Date of Accident : 2006-Oct

A 20-ton mobile crane was being boomed down to place 2,500 pounds of concrete patio blocks on a rooftop. The operator was unable to maintain the load weight, which resulted in both rear outriggers rising off the ground approximately 15 feet. The boom and jib broke through a parapet wall and came to rest on the roof.

Date of Accident : 2006-Oct

Ten sheets of 1/8-inch wood product slid off a crane load, fell approximately 10 metres, and struck a dockside worker. The crane's load had not been secured.

Date of Accident : 2006-Nov

As a mobile crane was loading a winch onto a tugboat, the headache ball from the second load line fell and stuck the back of a worker on the tug's deck. It appears that the line was not correctly hooked up.

Date of Accident : 2006-Nov

A crane contacted a 13-kV power line while removing structural steel from a sawmill.

Date of Accident : 2006-Nov

A mobile crane was installing a hot tub. It collapsed when an unidentified septic tank cover below the port forward outrigger pad gave way. The boom of the crane struck and injured a worker.

Date of Accident : 2006-Dec

A mobile crane was repositioning a section of wharf at the employer's dry land work area. The crane tipped onto its side, and the operator's hand became trapped between the bent door jam and control panel.