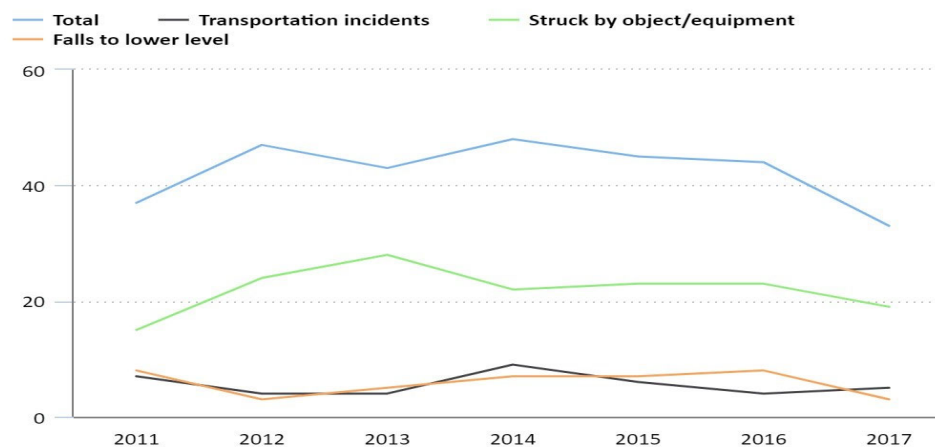


The theme this month is Crane Safety

Cranes are used by PPI Member companies and are used at construction sites for unloading and moving products. Cranes can provide easy lifting of loads, avoid floor obstructions, and offer improved load control. Although commonly used, the daily operation of cranes should be taken very seriously. From 2011 to 2017, the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CF0I) reported 297 total crane-related deaths, an average of 42 per year over this seven- year period.

Fatal occupational injuries involving cranes by type of event, 2011-17



Just over half of fatal crane injuries involve the worker being struck by an object or equipment. Ninety-one of these cases involved the worker being struck by a falling object or equipment. Out of that number, in 79 of these cases the worker was struck by an object from or put in motion by the crane.

Safe Practices to consider when operating a crane include:

- The crane and hoist system should be annually inspected by an organization that will inspect against the OSHA requirements.
- Verify all crane operators have the required training, qualification or certification as required by your jurisdiction.
- Make sure the jobsite is suitable for crane use. For example - Do not work near overhead power lines.
- Ensure the crane is suitable for the planned task. Confirm it has appropriate travel, lift and capacity. (a checklist for daily inspections can be used)
- Visually and physically inspect the crane before use. Check for damage, wear, and proper operation of all functions.
- Confirm the load weight. Check the capacity of all the rigging to ensure the weight does not exceed its capacities.
- Inspect slings and other rigging hardware before use for wear, stretch or other damage. If damaged, do not use.
- Slide the sling fully onto the hoisting hook and ensure the safety latch is closed.
- Keep hands and fingers clear when taking the slack out of the load.

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- Secure any unused sling legs, do not drag slings.
- Make sure all loose material has been removed from the load before lifting.
- Center the crane hoist over the load before hoisting to prevent swinging of the load.
- Warn all people in the load lift area before starting the lift by sounding the crane signal horn.
- Ensure the path of the load is completely clear of persons and obstructions.
- Raise the load only as high as necessary to clear obstructions.
- The crane should be operated to move slowly and smoothly without sudden acceleration, deceleration or stops.
- Never leave a suspended load unattended.
- Push buttons on pendant operated indoor cranes need to return to the off position when pressure is released on the controls.
- All cranes should be visibly identified with their lift capacity.



Reminder - Recordable Tracking and Sharing of Corrective Actions:

PPI is encouraging your company to participate in this monthly report. Questions should be directed to David Fink at dfink@plasticpipe.org. We look forward to your company's participation so that together we can support each other in continuous improvement of our safety performance.

Safety Minute of the Month: Complacency/Distractions

With the holidays approaching you may find your mind wondering. Complacency can be the most dangerous mindset that results in an injury or accident. When you begin to work on "auto-pilot" mode, and stop paying attention to what you are doing, that can lead to taking short cuts and taking risks.



STOP

It's easy to drop your guard when you become complacent. You need to stop to plan for your safety.



THINK

Are you following all required procedures? Are you using all safety equipment, and are you using it correctly?



ACT SAFELY

Take action to ensure you haven't let your guard down. Commit yourself to the safe and proper way of doing the job.