

# CRANES AND DERRICKS: TAKING SAFETY TO NEW HEIGHTS

Whether you're an operator or a construction worker required to work in or around cranes or derricks, it's critical to understand and comply with the necessary work practices established by your company to keep yourself and others safe from accidents. Specifically, you should understand the effect that ground conditions can have on a crane or derrick and the role of the jobsite's controlling entity (CE).

You should also have a basic understanding of the clearance distances necessary to minimize danger when working near power lines or other electrical sources. Finally, understanding the hazards associated with crane assembly/disassembly, work areas, energized equipment, and falls are key to your overall safety.

According to OSHA, the cause of fatalities during the performance of hoisting activities can be broken down as follows:

- Struck by load (32 percent),
- Electrocution (27 percent),
- Crushed during assembly/disassembly (21 percent),
- Failure of boom/cable (12 percent),
- Crane tip-over (11 percent),
- Struck by cab/counterweight (3 percent), and
- Falls (2 percent).

