

## Mini crawler cranes overturn

### Purpose

This alert highlights to owners, operators and users of mini crawler cranes the dangers of overturning. It also provides basic recommendations for operating mini crawler cranes safely.

### Background

Mini crawler crane overturned on the roof of a multi-story building and left hanging over the edge of the roof.



In recent years a number of incidents have occurred where mini crawler cranes have overturned (photo is of an earlier incident).

The most recent incident occurred when mini crawler crane was suspending a dogman in a workbox 4 m above the ground.

Fortunately no one was injured, although there was the potential for the dogman or other people in the vicinity to be seriously injured or killed, in this incident.

These types of cranes are becoming popular due to their small size and manoeuvrability.

However, if they are not set up and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions, they can overturn, often with very little warning.

### Recommendations

The number of incidents where mini crawler cranes have overturned clearly demonstrates the need to ensure these cranes are operated safely and within their design capacity.

- 1: Employers must ensure:
  - The mini crawler crane operator has the correct licence or certificate of competency to operate the crane [generally, at least slewing mobile crane operation - up to 20 tonnes], and
  - The operator has adequate training or instruction on how to set-up and safely use the specific mini crawler crane before operation, no matter how experienced the operator is on larger cranes.
- 2: Crane operators must ensure:
  - They hold the appropriate licence or certificate of competency for the crane to be used, and
  - The mini crawler crane is set-up and operated according to the manufacturer's instructions for the specific model.
- 3: Where the lifts required are complex, ensure a detailed lift plan is developed and adhere to it. A lift plan is similar to a Safe Work Method Statement, but is specific to cranes.

## **Further information**

General health and safety advice and WorkSafe publications are available on Worksafe's Website [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au) and can also be obtained from the WorkSafe Advisory Service by phone Toll-free 1800 136 089 or by emailing [info@worksafe.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@worksafe.vic.gov.au).

The material has been prepared using the best information available to WorkSafe Victoria. Any information about legislative obligations or responsibilities included in this material is only applicable to the circumstances described in this material. You should always check the legislation referred to in this material to ensure that you have complied with the law. Accordingly WorkSafe Victoria extends no warranties as to the suitability of the information for your specific circumstances.

Call us on 1800 136 089 or email us on [info@workcover.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@workcover.vic.gov.au)