



Crane training provides a helping hand up

The Corrections Department is training prisoners to be crane operators to give them a future and to help ease the skill shortage. Corrections spokesman, David Morrison, says the training gains prisoners meaningful qualifications that they can use to find sustainable employment when they're released from prison. Several prisoners at Auckland Prison have now gained their National Certificate in tower crane operation after completing nine unit standards, a first aid course and 100 hours of crane time. This is a two-year commitment.

Since gaining their qualification, two of the prisoners have been released. One of them is now employed in the construction industry in Northland, while the other is considering job offers in the industry. Auckland Prison has also won contracts to produce large concrete blocks used in civil constructions projects.

As part of this work, prisoners also undertake training in the National Certificate in Crane Operation. Other prisoners have gained NZQA standards towards a National Certificate in Concrete Construction Level 3 Pre-cast.



Corrections Inmate Employment staff teach prisoners the skills they'll need to find meaningful work upon release.

..easing the skills shortage

National Office Christmas Hours

The Crane Association national office will close for the year from the afternoon of Monday, 22 December.

We reopen on the morning of Monday, 12 January

Crane Assoc. Conference 2009

At the time the early bird special closed on 30 November a total of 63 people had registered to attend the conference in Surfers Paradise.

There are still display stands and sponsorship spots available and if you want one of these please contact our office for details.



From the President

As 2008 draws to a close it's time to reflect on what has been achieved and what is still ahead. It brought us the highest petrol prices ever, a financial meltdown and a change of government. But it didn't diminish our workload and with Christmas only a couple of weeks away I hope that everyone (those who aren't working) will have time to relax with their families and take a well earned break. 2009 is shaping up to be trying and we have the offshore conference to look forward to. Because of numbers that now attend our conferences it's necessary to look at venues 18 months out and we have a tentative booking for 2010 at the Millennium in Queenstown. I thank all members for their support during 2008 and wish you all and your families a very merry Christmas and a bright, prosperous 2009.

*Malcolm McWhannell,
President*

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The Victorian Government's industry safety department, Work Safe, presents a regular "Absolute Shocker" picture of bad work practices in its newsletter. It bemoans the fact that its latest will look familiar to readers because it has featured this type of silliness often. It appears that every couple of years someone thinks it a good idea to suspend earth moving equipment with a fearless operator from a crane to demolish a structure. When operating, the backhoe with the rock hammer pounding away, Work Safe reports, it must have been bucking and rearing like a rodeo bronco. So, as it's a long drop to the ground, they hoped the operator of the back hoe was wearing a seat belt. Equally surprising is that the newsletter is a weekly and there are enough "Absolute Shockers" caught on camera to have them featured weekly.



From the Chief Executive

Time seems to pass so quickly when people are busy and I know that everyone in the industry has been very busy during 2008. However, this has not stopped a lot of members from assisting us in a variety of ways and for that I and the councillors are most appreciative. I can only repeat what I have said before that the Crane Association is indeed fortunate to have a dedicated council and fantastic support from the members. This seems to grow year on year and gives me a great pool of knowledge to draw on, especially when dealing with the authorities. Our working relationships with the agencies has improved and there's a greater willingness from all sides to work together for the betterment of the industry and the public. I thank everyone associated with the industry during 2008 and hope that you and your families have a safe, happy Christmas and that 2009 is bright and prosperous.

Canadian worker killed by reversing dump truck - lessons to be learned

Workers were spreading gravel when an engineer, talking on his cell phone, walked behind a reversing dump truck. A spotter was using hand signals to direct the truck. The driver maintained visual contact with the spotter in his side-view mirror. The truck's backup alarm was working.

The spotter turned away from the dump truck for about 10 seconds to check for other vehicles. He continued to motion the dump truck to reverse just as the engineer stepped onto the staging area between the spotter and the reversing truck. Still on the cellphone, he stopped

behind the reversing truck with his back to it. The driver could not see the engineer and continued to reverse as directed by the spotter. The spotter didn't see the engineer and one of the dump truck's rear tires snagged the back of the engineer's leg pulling him under the truck. He died from his injuries.

Safety recommendations:

Establish & enforce safe work procedures around mobile equipment, including:

- use of cell phones
- high visibility apparel
- continuous eye contact between operators and spotters
- ensure all can hear backup alarms.
- designated pedestrian routes through worksites and signpost them clearly.



New Members

Since publishing the last list in August the following companies have joined the Crane Association and we extend a warm welcome to them:

Full members:

- Holmes Equipment Ltd
- Crane Hire Otaki Ltd

Associate members:

- HIAB New Zealand Ltd
- M & O Pacific Ltd

Terminated members:

- Discount Crane Hire Ltd