

safety

Thunderstorms & Lightning

During thunderstorms, a crane boom can become a lightning rod.

When thunderstorms threaten, don't start anything you can't quickly stop

Pay attention to the daily forecasts so you know what to expect during the day. Also pay attention to early signs of thunderstorms: high winds, dark clouds, rain, distant thunder or lightning. At this point, do not start any new task that you can't quickly stop.

Assess your lightning risk and take precautionary action

During thunderstorms, no place outside is safe. But you can minimize your risk by assessing the lightning threat and taking the appropriate actions. Count the number of seconds from when you see the lightning flash until you hear the thunder. If you hear thunder, lightning maybe close enough to strike you. Stop what you're doing and seek safety in a substantial building. If a substantial building is not available, a metal-topped vehicle with the windows up is your next best choice.

For Mobile Cranes.

Consider lowering the boom and reducing the boom height. Stay inside the crane, wind up or close any windows and allow the front to pass. Ensure all personnel remain clear of the machine and its hooks. If a substantial building is available move to this location if safe to do so.

For Crawler Cranes

Stay inside the crane, wind up or close any windows and allow the front to pass. Ensure all personnel remain clear of the machine and its hooks. If a substantial building is available move to this location if safe to do so.

For Tower Cranes

Stay inside the crane and allow the front to pass. Ensure all personnel remain clear of the machine and its hooks. The tower crane will be earthed for lightning protection.

If you see lightning, count the number of seconds until you hear thunder. Divide the number of seconds by 3 to get the distance the lightning is away from you.

IF THUNDER IS HEARD...

3 seconds after flash
6 seconds after flash
9 seconds after flash
12 seconds after flash
15 seconds after flash
30 seconds after flash
60 seconds after flash

THE LIGHTNING IS...

1 Km away
2 Km away
3 Km away
4 Km away
5 Km away
10 Km away
20 Km away

Lightning can strike as far as 20 km from the storm cloud.

AS A GENERAL PRECAUTION

YOU SHOULD NOT RESUME CRANE WORK ACTIVITIES UNTIL 30 MINUTES AFTER THE LAST AUDIBLE THUNDER OR VISIBLE FLASH OF LIGHTNING.

In the event that your crane is struck by lightning refer to the manufacturers instructions for further guidance.