



Information Item	Top 10 tips: Controlling the controllable
Sponsor:	CEO
Date:	June 2020

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### **Top 10 tips: Controlling the controllable**

*It will be a long road to recovery in the post-COVID world but the Crane Association of New Zealand's Past President, Scott McLeod, has 10 tips that should make life slightly easier in this month's Technical Corner.*

Taking a page out of the Crane Industry Council of Australia Chief Executive Officer Brandon Hitch's book – being able to control the controllable adds a much-needed calmness during a crisis.

So, here are top ten COVID-19 business and technical tips:

#### **1. Get on the same page**

The first tip is to ensure you're always up to date with the Government's COVID-19 website.

The Government's ongoing advice is crucially important right now. And it's in our interest, as business owners and employers, to implement government strategies within our everyday business approach. That will mean our businesses are just as strong and consistent moving forward.

That will be especially important as our country moves from Alert Level 2 to 1, and the need for ongoing contact tracing to ensure the population's health and safety.

So, we want to make sure we help New Zealand become world-leading in contact tracing.

#### **2. Keep surfing the web**

While you're on the internet, go check out the Construction Health & Safety NZ website if you haven't already.

A newly established organisation, it aims to raise the standard of health and safety across the whole of the construction industry. They're reading from the same safety song sheet CANZ is, so make sure you're aware of their residential construction protocols.

#### **3. Wage subsidy extension**

The wage subsidy scheme has been extended by a further eight weeks.

From June 10, businesses that have suffered, or expect to suffer, revenue loss of at least 50 per cent for the 30-day period prior to the application date versus the nearest comparable period last year will be eligible for the extension of the scheme.

It will be available from 10 June 2020 until 1 September 2020, so you can keep paying your employees.

#### **4. Cash is king**

Keep working with your accountant to find the taps dripping money. They will help you find workable solutions while things are tight, and point you in the right financial direction.

#### **5. Support a mate**

I don't want to be a negative Nelly, but this topic needs highlighting. Life stresses happen in most people's lives, however coupled with stresses created at work, means we are often more vulnerable than others.

So, check out [Mates in Construction](#) – they raise awareness of mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention in the workplace, and reduce the stigma around mental health in the workplace.

And just as important, they can connect you or a mate to the best available help and support that is practical, professional and appropriate.

#### **6. Tip your hat, not your crane**

The last set of five tips revolves around our industry's technical aspects – so, let's begin with what is the most obvious but still no less essential. Don't tip over your crane.

It may seem silly to say but it's got to be number one. Just because COVID-19 has changed a lot of things, good health and safety measures still apply. Continue checking for underground services, soil or working too close to embankments.

Good Crane-ing means not taking your eye off the ball. Don't let your team – who may have just come back from weeks in lockdown – down. Make sure you get back to basics so everyone can go home safe at the end of the day.

#### **7. Invest in your employees**

Train your guys well enough so they can leave, treat them well enough so they don't want to.

Right now is a perfect opportunity – in the quieter periods – to upskill and reinforce your team's training. Now is a good time to invest in them.

In saying that, you might find greater availability of our industry's trainers. Additionally, they're our mates too and will need our support as others tighten their purse strings – they'll be very grateful for the call and may sharpen their pencil on the price.

#### **8. “Zero Energy”**

If you haven't already, investigate your lockout systems for energy: hydraulic, mechanical, gravitational, electrical, etc – because it was only a few years ago that someone was seriously harmed.

It's one of those things that we are au fait with, and don't look at often enough. We assume the guys do it well.

So, is now another good time to ensure that they are actually doing it well and that you have got a good solid process? I've got some doing it now; making sure that the maintenance manager and the team have good processes around locking out energy sources when they're going to do any work on anything.

#### **9. Maintenance update**

The last thing you need when you're flat out working is any down time due to maintenance. So, if you're a bit quieter now, get ahead of the game and grease the carrier, the upper works, check wire ropes.

Take the time to make sure the gear is in top notch order for when it gets back out there. Don't just think of the crane either; there are other things that get hammered throughout the year.

It doesn't mean you have to spend money either; it just means you're taking the time to check these are alright.

#### **10. Fit for duty, fit for work**

I think we need to understand that people are experiencing lots of different pressures at the moment, even more so in these unsettling times, so we should be kind.

Being fit for duty and work also means being mentally fit, so you need good solid processes to check that they are. Just as importantly, you need to support them if they aren't.

Scott McLeod

CANZ Immediate Past President

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