

DANGER UNDER BOOMS AND BUCKETS

These safety rules prepared by Earl W. Wheeler; Safety Engineer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command; were reprinted from a CONSTRUCTION SAFETY RELEASE published by the National Safety Council, 425 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Accidents involving men working or walking under crane booms and buckets are infrequent, but, of those that happen, many are fatal.

Even if the crane is in excellent condition and is being run by a first-rate operator, it is never wise to expose men needlessly. Usually, the victim is a laborer doing an assigned job which has nothing to do with the crane.

The rule is simple: "Do not permit men to stand, walk, or work under crane booms, buckets, or suspended loads." A companion rule is the one on hard hats: "Hard hats shall be worn by all men working in the vicinity of cranes, scaffolds, or in any place where an object may fall from overhead." This rule helps to take care of men who just won't "stay out from under."

How are men to be kept from standing, walking, or working under booms, buckets, and suspended loads?

Prior planning of crane operations should take into account the area to be covered by the swing of the boom. Cranes should be positioned so that the boom or bucket cannot be swung over workmen. Otherwise, operations should be scheduled only for times that men are excluded from the swing area.

In a congested work situation, the swing area should be roped off or barricaded, and signs should be posted to keep unauthorized persons out of the hazardous area. In extreme cases, it may be necessary to post a watchman or traffic controller.

In concreting operations, it is especially necessary to keep all persons away from the vicinity of the bucket travel. A chunk of semihardened concrete frequently drops from the bucket and can produce a serious injury even if the victim is wearing a hard hat. If he is not wearing a hard hat, the bump may be fatal. Puddlers should be kept well in the clear, both when the crane operator is landing the bucket and during takeway.