TOOLBOX TALK

Crane Swing Radius: Keep Clear

COMPANY	PROJECT	DATE	PRESENTED BY

When a crane turns, its upper body and counterweight can strike someone or crush them against equipment, materials, or a wall. Crews working nearby may focus on the load and miss what is moving behind the operator. Barricades and clear communication help keep a routine task from becoming a crushing injury.

Recognize the Whole Danger Area

- Look beyond the hook and load. The rotating upper body can sweep into a walking route or trap someone between the crane and a nearby object, even when the load is somewhere else.
- Before working near the crane, identify where its moving parts could strike or squeeze you. OSHA requires the employer to train assigned workers to recognize these areas; ask the foreman if you are unsure.
- Plan walking routes, material staging, and cleanup outside the marked danger area. Do not treat an idle crane as permission to cut through, retrieve a tool, or stand behind the counterweight.

Set and Maintain the Boundary

- In most cases, the employer must put up and maintain control lines, warning lines, railings, or similar barriers to mark the edge of the hazard area. Check that the boundary clearly shows where people must stay out, including the paths other trades use.
- Report missing, fallen, or moved barriers before continuing nearby work. Do not move a line to make a delivery easier; stop the affected task and have the boundary restored or the route changed.
- Signs alone do not replace barriers. Only if the employer can show that barriers can't be put up on the ground or on the crane may it mark the area with warning signs, such as "Danger, Swing/Crush Zone," together with high-visibility markings on the crane. Then the employer must train each worker on what those markings mean.

Communicate Before Anyone Enters

- Before entering a hazard location the operator cannot see, you or someone you direct must make sure the operator is informed. Do not assume that being nearby, waving, or wearing bright clothing means the operator knows your location.
- Use a communication system agreed on beforehand. Once the operator knows someone has entered the hazard area, the operator must not rotate until that system confirms the person is in a safe position.
- When part of one crane is within the working radius of another, a system to coordinate them is required. The contractor in charge of the site sets it up, or the employers running the cranes if no one is in charge. Ask the foreman how it works before nearby tasks begin; don't assume the operators have already worked it out.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

You are moving supplies and find a fallen warning line behind a crane. A tool you need is inside the boundary, where the operator cannot see you. A coworker says the crane is stopped, so grab it quickly. What would you stop, report, and arrange before anyone enters?

Questions for the crew

1. Where could the crane's upper body strike or trap someone?

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2. What should you do if a barrier is down?
3. Who must be informed before you enter a hidden hazard location?
4. What confirmation does the operator need before rotating again?

> **Stay outside the swing boundary, protect the barriers, and never go where the operator can't see you without making sure the operator knows.**

Sources: 29 CFR 1926.1424, Work area control

Drafted with AI for review by a competent person. Clever Rook writes from the official regulation text it cites, but it doesn't know your site. Check it against your conditions and your company's safety program before use. Not legal advice.

SIGN-IN SHEET

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COMPANY	PROJECT	DATE

REVIEWED BY (COMPETENT PERSON)	REVIEW DATE

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