

Tech Tips - a periodic newsletter

AVOID OUTRIGGER FAILURE

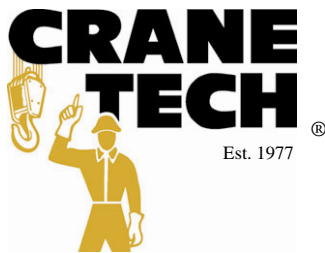
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*Safety Through
Education*

Greater Tampa Area

6037 Winthrop Commerce Ave.
Riverview, FL 33578

Phone: 813.248.4800
800.521.7669
Fax: 813.248.4820
Web: www.cranetech.com

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For many years there were only two positions where mobile crane outriggers could be used for application of crane ratings. These were; (1) All outriggers fully deployed and set, or (2) outriggers not deployed or set. Modern cranes have changed dramatically, and one of the most significant changes is multiple outrigger configurations.

To make sure we are on the same path; Never has any crane manufacturer approved "on outrigger" ratings when all outriggers were not equally deployed and set to specification. No manufacturer ever allowed only one, two, or three of four outriggers set at any location to determine a crane's safe rating. It was not uncommon, however, for an operator working in tight quarters to position outriggers at different locations and to refer all lift capacities to the more conservative On-Rubber load chart. Seemingly the safe approach to ensuring that any loss of stability would be prevented by the outriggers being set, regardless of their actual configuration. After all, the ratings being used were conservative for on-rubber lifts only, right? Wrong!

Most of today's modern hydraulic cranes have multiple outrigger positioning. Meaning, the outriggers have more than just the fully out and down positioning. Many crane's outriggers may now be set to 0%-extension and down, 50%-extension and down, or 100%-extension and down, and each position has its own load chart and ratings.

What is at issue is the location where outriggers may be positioned and the reinforcing plates, sometimes called "doubblers," on the outrigger beams and inside the outrigger box.

Let us know how Tech Tips are helping your safety program. Send us a message with Tech Tip Help in the subject line.

Email: cranetech@cranetech.com

Tech Tip Continued:

When a manufacturer incorporates reinforcement at intermediate outrigger positions the outriggers are only to be used when set equally "at those reinforced positions." Even when using the on-rubber ratings, outriggers not set at the designated locations can, and do, result in structural failure of the outrigger box and possibly the beam itself.

Make sure your crane operators are aware of this structural limitation. Set up correctly for maximum safety.

Contact your crane supplier for clarification of outrigger positioning.

Your crane may vary from this example so be sure to check your crane operator's manual carefully.



Crane Tech becomes a regular winter hosting site for the NCCCO Written Exam Management Committee (WEMC).

Starting in 2006 when Crane Tech co-hosted the winter meeting with International Assessments Institute (the testing company for the NCCCO) Crane Tech has continued to host winter meetings each year. Often co-hosted with other organizations who participate in the WEMC, the winter meetings have become a location the WEMC members have come to look forward to each year.