

PROTECT YOUR MUNICIPALITY WITH A 'SAFE CRANE' ORDINANCE



Cranes and their operators can be an asset or a liability

Cranes make it easy to transport heavy construction materials and reach great heights. Because they are only needed for limited periods of time they are most frequently rented. And that is where many municipalities run into trouble.

In the right hands, they can help developers and contractors achieve great tasks. In the wrong hands, cranes can be a hazard to public safety and a potential liability that can cost millions. That is why municipalities should protect themselves and their taxpayers with a safe crane ordinance.

Is your town protected by a Safe Crane Ordinance?

In the wake of crane accidents that have occurred over the past few years, many municipalities are recognizing the need to preserve safety and prevent damage to residential, commercial and public property by adopting a standard that governs crane operations within their borders.

At present, contractors do not have to inform a municipality that a crane is being used, unless the right-of-way is being obstructed or a police officer is needed for traffic control. This lack of oversight means that authorities only become aware of dangerous jobsite conditions after an accident, where there has been property damage, or worse: personal injury or loss of life.

Safe crane ordinances establish procedures that protect municipalities and their taxpayers against liability from accidents caused by unscrupulous or unqualified crane operators.

At a minimum, a Safe Crane Ordinance should require:

- A permit to bring a crane into the municipality
- An operator with a valid New Jersey Crane Operator's License, NCCCO certification and an NJ DOT Medical Examiners Certificate
- An up-to-date crane inspection certificate
- Proof of an adequate level of insurance

Keep your community safe and connect with ELEC to insure that your local construction code includes adequate crane safety provisions to keep you and your neighbors from unnecessary danger.

To learn more about our Safe Crane Ordinance, contact **Daniel Ortega at 551-222-9039 or by email at dortega@ELEC825.org**. The licensing and training of crane operators is a matter of public safety and our organization is working with municipalities throughout New Jersey to address this common-sense regulation.



BUILDING ON COMMON GROUND

Greg Lalevee, Chairman | Mark Longo, Director

(973) 630-1010 | www.ELEC825.ORG



ELEC is the labor-management organization of the Operating Engineers Local 825



CRANE SAFETY TAKES MORE THAN A LICENSE

SHORTCUTS RISK LIVES AND PUBLIC WELFARE



Operating heavy equipment carries enormous responsibility for public safety – for property, for other vehicles on the road, and for peoples’ lives.

Companies that cut corners on operator costs run many risks that include performance quality, public and worker liability and accidents that can have disastrous effects on the bottom line.

All of the companies in the news accounts on this page advertised themselves as reputable businesses with capable operators. Yet they still encountered accidents that resulted in consequences, ranging from property damage to inconvenience to motorists and area residents.

Operating Engineers require more than just a license. They require specialized training, years of experience and knowledge of rules, regulations and the law. These things add up to a key ingredient often lacking in non-union operators – *judgment*.

Crane operator loses control

RAHWAY— In January 2015 in Rahway, a crane truck driver lost control of his vehicle and slammed into a box truck stopped at a light on Routes 1 and 9, closing a portion of the busy road for three hours. A county hazmat team was called in to clean hydraulic fluid that spilled from the crane truck, which police said suffered heavy damage.

Crane teeters on edge

MONROE TWP.— In April 2015, a driver on Malaga Road in Monroe Township veered off the road. Its wheels left the roadway, causing it to sink into a muddy shoulder, teetering dangerously close to tipping over.

The crane belonged to Garton’s Rigging and Crane Service, a South Jersey based crane rental and rigging company. Workers had to be assisted by Monroe Township police and Monroe’s Office of Emergency Management to help stabilize the scene.

Additional cranes had to be brought in to upright the vehicle, closing the road for hours and inconveniencing countless motorists throughout the area.

Overweight crane crushes local bridge

KINGWOOD TWP. — In Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, in June 2014, a crane owned by Sky-Hy Erectors & Equipment of South Plainfield caused a steel-truss bridge on Route 519 to collapse.

The crane was 90,000 pounds over its weight limit. Although a permit is required on any load exceeding 40-tons, no permit was obtained, even though the weight exceeded the limit, police said. State Troopers issued summonses in connection with the accident.

Sky-Hy Erectors was charged with operating a crane that was 45 tons overweight, as well as too wide for the road. The company, which also uses the name Sky-Hy Crane and Rigging, was also accused of operating the vehicle without getting the special permit required because of its weight.

According to Tom Mathews, county director of Public Works, points out that before a permit for an oversized truck is issued, the various entities along the proposed route must be notified so they can see if their roads and bridges are appropriate. This was not done, Mathews said.

Hunterdon County engineers said the bridge would have to be replaced and would remain closed to traffic for up to two years in the meantime.

ELEC is working with municipalities throughout New Jersey to address crane safety. Don’t risk the public welfare. Make sure developers and contractors hire only qualified crane operators to work in your community. Contact us for more information on how to update your local code and implement safety guidelines in your town.

CALL 973-630-1010