

# 8.55 Tower Crane Erection and Dismantling Violations

**Date: November 4, 2019**

## I. Purpose

This Directive establishes a willful penalty classification for specific tower crane erection/dismantling violations for DOSH Compliance.

## II. Scope and Application

This Directive applies to construction-tower crane operations statewide.

## III. References

- WAC 296-155-53402 (1)
- WAC 296-155-53402 (17) (a) through (d)
- DOSH Compliance Manual
- [Hazard Alert: Roles, responsibilities, and procedures during the erection and dismantling of tower cranes \(June 2019\)](#)

## IV. Background

In April 2019, a construction tower crane collapsed in Washington State while being dismantled, fatally injuring two workers and two members of the public. Previously, in July 2012, a construction-tower crane collapsed in Texas, fatally injuring two workers. During the Washington State investigation, it was found that the conditions leading up to these collapses may not have been isolated events, but was indicated to have been practiced throughout the industry. As a result, DOSH issued a Hazard Alert in June 2019 discussing roles, responsibilities, and procedures during the erection and dismantling of tower cranes.

## V. Enforcement Policies

The June 2019 Hazard Alert, and the media attention surrounding these high profile construction tower crane collapses, serve as the knowledge component for willful violation classification.

- A. When the DOSH Compliance Crane Unit documents violations of either WAC 296-155-53402 (1) or WAC 296-155-53402 (17)(a) through (d) on a tower crane erection or dismantling site, the violation will be classified as willful and the penalty will be multiplied by 10.
- B. The normal willful review and documentation requirements per the DOSH Compliance Manual will be completed.
- C. The willful classification can only be overridden by the DOSH Assistant Director, upon the recommendation of the Statewide Compliance Manager.

**VI. Point of Contact**

If DOSH staff have questions or need additional guidance or interpretive assistance, they are encouraged to contact either the Crane Specialist in DOSH Technical Services, the Region 8 Compliance Manager, or Compliance Operations.

**VII. Review and Cancellation**

DOSH will review this Directive within two years from the issue date, and it will remain effective until superseded or canceled.

Approved:

  
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Anne F. Soiza, L&I Assistant Director  
Division of Occupational Safety and Health

[Hazard Alert attached below]



# DOSH Hazard Alert

Helping employers prevent workplace injuries

June 2019

## Roles, responsibilities, and procedures during the erection and dismantling of tower cranes

**Attention:** Tower crane owners, contractors, and their employees who use, erect, and dismantle tower cranes.

### When erecting or dismantling tower cranes:

- First, ensure that an assembly/disassembly (A/D) director is declared.
- The A/D Director must be present and directing operations with complete authority over the erection, climbing and/or dismantling project.
- The A/D Director must read and understand the manufacturer's erection/dismantling procedures, and review these procedures with all personnel involved.
- It is important that the manufacturer's written procedures are followed.\*
- Review key safety measures with crews before work starts.
- Do not remove the pins, bolts and other connecting parts before an assist crane has been connected to the component to be lifted.
- The A/D Director should stay aware of changing conditions that could increase safety hazards and take necessary precautions.

\* **Note:** If the manufacturer's procedures need modification for a particular project you need prior written approval from a person in authority from the manufacturer or a registered professional structural engineer.

### Who can be the Assembly/Disassembly Director?

- **Assembly/disassembly (A/D) director:** One who is competent and a qualified person, or a competent person assisted by one or more qualified people.
- **Competent:** One who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, **and** who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.
- **Qualified:** A person who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training and experience, successfully demonstrated the ability to solve/resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project.

### Prevent further risk for tower crane collapse by pre-planning!

Effective planning, communication, and procedures, can keep employees safe when erecting and dismantling tower cranes.

Before you begin to erect or dismantle tower cranes:

- Conduct a safety hazard assessment of the affected work area to identify possible hazards and appropriate safety measures.
- Develop a plan for communicating safety measures to all involved in the erecting and dismantling of the crane.
- Provide copies of your safety hazard assessment to the assembly/disassembly director, competent and qualified persons, and onsite supervisors.
- Ensure employees and contractors have appropriate safety training and protective equipment to perform erecting and dismantling activities safely.



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## Other resources you can access

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To find an **electronic** copy of this Hazard Alert, go to <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/hazardalerts/>.

L&I Safety web page: [www.Lni.wa.gov/safety-health](http://www.Lni.wa.gov/safety-health).

For other related rules, contact your local L&I office or visit the safety rules webpage: <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/find-safety-rules>.

To find the nearest L&I office, visit <https://lni.wa.gov/agency/contact/#office-locations>.

### How can I get help from Labor & Industries?

The Department of Labor & Industries provides consultations, training, and technical assistance at no cost to employers. Call today to schedule a free confidential consultation or go to <https://lni.wa.gov/safety-health/preventing-injuries-illnesses/request-consultation/> for more information.

You may also call 1-800-423-7233 or visit a local L&I office and ask for the Consultation Manager.



### Be aware

Employers who send maintenance and repair personnel to work on a crane at a construction site must ensure they meet the definition for “qualified person” with respect to the maintenance or repair task they perform.

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*This alert was developed by L&I’s Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to alert employers, labor groups, and employees to potential hazards associated with work activities. **This is not a rule and creates no new legal obligations.** The information provided includes suggested guidance on how to avoid workplace hazards and describes relevant mandatory safety and health rules. DOSH recommends you also check the related rules for additional requirements.*