

May 03, 2019

RE: Tower cranes

On Saturday April 27th, 2019, a tower crane being dismantled in Seattle's core collapsed onto a public street. Tragically, four people were killed and more were injured. This event is a stark reminder of catastrophic risk and devastating consequences when something goes wrong involving a tower crane.

As the Washington State authorities deal with the aftermath, we need to ensure the risks in our own province are being properly addressed.

This letter serves as a reminder for all crane owners, erectors, operators and maintenance personnel, to review their own procedures for all aspects of tower-crane operation to ensure a similar tragedy does not happen here.

With an estimated 300 tower cranes currently erected throughout the province, WorkSafeBC and its dedicated team of crane officers is focused on the safety plans and procedures for placement, erection, operation, dismantling, and proper inspection and maintenance of tower cranes, as well as the qualifications of certified operators. Rigging standards, rigger qualifications and below-the-hook lifting device design and documentation also commands attention.

Owners, prime contractors and employers are ultimately responsible for the safety of their worksites, both for their workers and for members of the public. It is critical to ensure manufacturer's specifications are adhered to, safe work procedures are followed, and [Part 14](#) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation is complied with.

Ongoing collaboration with BC Crane Safety and industry stakeholders helps to promote our mutual commitment to the safe operation of tower cranes. WorkSafeBC has tower-crane resources including inspection checklists available at worksafebc.com. BC Crane Safety has additional industry resources available at bccranesafety.ca.

Sincerely,



Al Johnson Vice President, Prevention Services