What Makes A Job A “Crane Job”?

-A zero-clearance location
-Lack of structural integrity
-Inability to create a suitable drop-zone with conventional rigging methods
-The tree is lacking a high leverage point
-The diameter of the wood is too large for efficient roping
-To lessen the physical strain of a job

Choosing the right crane for the job

-Determine the tree’s height
-Determine where the crane will be positioned
-Determine the size of the drop-zone
-Determine the average log weight
-Determine the site requirements

General Guidelines

-Never overestimate the cranes capacity
-Communicate to your crew and the operator
-Go over crane signals before the job begins
-Always inspect the outriggers for shifting
-Keep all workers out of the drop zone until the piece is safely on the ground
-Inspect all chokers every chance possible
-Positioning of the hook is key
-Monitor the pre-tensioning
-Finish the cut completely before hoisting
-Never shock load the crane
Riding The Ball/Hook
ANSI STANDARDS

6.7.6 A qualified arborist may be hoisted into position utilizing the crane, provided that the arborist is tied in with an arborist climbing line and arborist saddle and secured to a designated anchor point on the boom line or crane. The following procedures shall be followed when an arborist is to be lifted by the crane.

Jobsite Circumstances
Charts And Gauges To Be Familiar With

Certification & Licensing
More than a dozen states now require certification of crane operators. Michigan, Montana, Colorado and Pennsylvania are considering it. In California, a crane operator certification system went into effect on August 2, 2003. The rule will require operators to pass a physical examination, a drug test, and both written and hands-on examinations.

NJ Requirements

On September 4, 2003, Governor McGreevey signed into a bill requiring mobile crane operators to be certified by CCO (Certified Crane Operator) or an equivalent body accredited by the NCAA (National Commission for Certifying Agencies) by April of 2004. In addition to being CCO certified, operators must be at least 18 years of age, have 1,000 hours of crane related experience, maintain a current medical examiners certification card, and of course pay the correct license fee. The licenses are issued for 5 years and may be renewed when the applicant provides proof of re-certification.

- According to OSHA, approximately 50 fatalities occur each year due to accidents involving cranes
- Electrical hazards are the main cause of these deaths- approximately 40%
- About 8% are due to boom buckling
- About 7% are from rigging failure
- About 7% are due to overturning
Global Stats
-2000  74  Deaths reported
-2001  107 Deaths reported
-2002  96  Deaths reported
-2003  138 Deaths reported
-2004  141 Deaths reported
-2005  127 Deaths reported

Problems Encountered

Proximity to Electrical Conductors

- In some states, it is against OSHA regulations to place an un-insulated boom over an energized conductor!
- It is against OSHA regulations to place an un-insulated boom closer than 10 feet to an energized conductor!
- All electrical conductors MUST be treated as “hot” unless it is tested AND GROUNDED!