

# Crane Operation



## Best Practice Series BP-57

Fatalities in the anthracite industry have occurred during operation of a crane in close proximity to energized high-voltage lines.

In one case, a victim was positioning an outrigger when the crane operator rotated the boom toward the energized lines. Although the boom swing was stopped, the momentum carried the swinging block and wire rope into all three phases.

### **To prevent yourself from becoming the next statistic:**

- Avoid crane operation in proximity of energized circuits.
- De-energize the circuit if possible.
- Provide guards or barriers, if practical, when circuits can't be de-energized.
- Set up the crane, where possible, in locations so the lift can be completed away from the potential exposure.
- Maintain all windows in good condition to maintain visibility.
- Accept signals from only one ground person.
- When leveling a crane and positioning outriggers, hoist the block as close to the point sheave or anti-two-blocking limit as possible.
- When swinging with a hoisted load, use tag-lines to stabilize the load.

*Arrive Home Alive*

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