



NEWS RELEASE

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Contacts: Neal O'Briant, (919) 715-3233

Dolores Quesenberry, (919) 733-0348

North Carolina Crane Safety Standard Takes Effect Oct. 1

RALEIGH — The N.C. Department of Labor worked with crane industry leaders on a crane safety standard for North Carolina that will take effect Oct. 1. The standard will protect the safety and health of crane operators, construction workers and the general public.

N.C. Department of Labor officials invited industry leaders to discuss a draft standard in 2008. Fatal crane accidents in other states raised awareness of the hazards and made headlines in the national news.

“This is another great example of what can be accomplished when the public sector and private industry work together to accomplish a common goal,” Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry said. “North Carolina has taken a giant step forward toward elevating the safety of crane operators and construction workers across our state by adopting this standard.”

Some of the companies that helped the Labor Department develop the final standard include Skanska, Balfour Beatty Construction, Heede Southeast, BE&K, Cox & Schepp, Edifice, Arcadis, and Buckner Companies.

“This new standard is so important for North Carolina,” said Chip Pocock, safety and risk manager for Buckner Companies. “It shows you just how progressive North Carolina is by taking the lead nationally and promulgating this standard. It will clearly benefit all who work in the construction industry and will bring more and better qualified crane operators to our state.”

NCDOL’s Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau is offering training classes starting in September across the state to educate workers on the new standard.

(EDITORS/NEWS DIRECTORS please see the list on the attached page.)

The Labor Department operates a state plan for occupational safety and health approved by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. North Carolina’s occupational safety

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and health standards have to be “at least as effective” as federal OSHA standards. The N.C. Department of Labor can adopt state-specific standards that go beyond the requirements of federal OSHA standards.

The standard includes several key provisions:

1. Expanding the scope of the standard to include the wide range of new types of cranes that have been developed during the past 30 years;
2. Having a qualified person to address key hazards associated with crane assembly and disassembly;
3. Making sure ground conditions are adequate for setup to help prevent tip-overs;
4. Requiring employers to take specific precautions when cranes are near power lines;
5. Instituting a certification requirement for crane operators, either through a nationally recognized accrediting agency or through an employer’s own qualification program, which must be approved by a recognized auditor;
6. Requiring signal persons to meet specified qualifications;
7. Updating requirements for cranes on barges; and
8. Updating requirements for safety devices, operational aids, signals, specific types of equipment, inspections, wire rope, crushing and overhead hazards, fall protection, and equipment modification.

The standard is available on the Labor Department’s Web site through the “What’s New” tab.

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Crane Standard Scheduled Training Dates

The N.C. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Division is offering training classes on the new Cranes and Derricks Standard in several locations through North Carolina. Please visit www.nclabor.com/osha/etta/crane_training/CraneSchedule.pdf for registration information.

Sept. 3, 2009: Cape Fear Community College, North Campus. 4500 Blue Clay Road, Castle Hayne, NC 28429. This course is limited to 75 registrants.

Sept. 21, 2009: Central Piedmont Community College, Central Campus of Central Piedmont Community College in the Hall Professional Development Building, Room 215, 1112 Charlottetowne Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28204. This course is limited to 75 registrants.

Sept. 23, 2009: Wilkes Community College, Alumni Hall, Room 1112, 1328 S. Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro, NC 28697. This course is limited to 60 registrants.

Sept. 25, 2009: Pitt Community College, Greenville Center, Room 301, 3107 S. Memorial Drive, Greenville, NC 27835. This course is limited to 45 registrants.

Sept. 28, 2009: Rowan Cabarrus Community College, Cabarrus Business and Technology Center (CBTC), Room 9281, 660 Concord Parkway North, Concord, NC 28027. This course is limited to 50 registrants.

Sept. 30, 2009: Guilford Community College, Nussbaum Center for Entrepreneurship, 2007 Yanceyville St., Greensboro, NC 27405. This course is limited to 30 registrants.

Oct. 6, 2009: NCDOL OSH Raleigh Field Office, 313 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh, NC 27603. This course is limited to 30 registrants.

Oct. 8, 2009: NCDOL OSH Charlotte Field Office, 901 Blairhill Road, Suite 200, Charlotte, NC 28217. This course is limited to 30 registrants.

Oct. 9, 2009: Center for Business and Technology Incubation Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College Enka Campus, 1465 Sand Hill Road, Candler, NC 28715. This course is limited to 20 registrants per session. There will be a morning session and an afternoon session.