

TRAINING CALENDAR

Oct. 7-10	Baton Rouge, La.	Mobile Crane Safety & Operator Qualification	craneinstitute.com
Oct. 26-28	Las Vegas, Nev.	CCAA Defensible Crane Inspections	ccaaweb.net
Oct. 27-31	Tampa, Fla.	Mobile Crane Operator Train-the-Trainer	cranetech.com
Nov. 3-7	Woodland, Wash.	NCCCO Mobile Crane Operator Certification	wrrc.com
Nov. 17-21	Las Vegas, Nev.	Professional Development Conference	cranesafe.com

Submit your company's training schedules to tbennett@cranehotline.com.

Crane Institute Certification Now Accredited

Crane Institute of America Certification (CIC), Sanford, Fla., formed in May 2007, recently received accreditation for its national crane operation testing and certification program from the NCCA. The National Commission for Certifying Agencies is one of two nationally recognized third-party accrediting agencies that sets guidelines for establishing certification competency. To receive NCCA accreditation a certifying organization must conduct job analyses and meet stringent documentation processes.

CIC offers operator certifications for mobile cranes in five categories: Telescoping Boom, 20 tons or less; Telescoping Boom, 21-75 tons; Telescoping Boom, Over 75 tons; Lattice Boom, Carrier Mounted; and Lattice Boom, Crawler Mounted.

CIC's parent company is the Crane Institute of America, a national crane and rigging training company, but CIC operates as a separate entity. "One of the compelling reasons for founding Crane Institute of America 21 years ago was to offer operators a certification process," said Debbie Dickinson, executive director of CIC. Dickinson explains that at the time, the training company worked with colleges and universities to develop a

standardized testing process, but it has only been in recent years that there has been increased interest from the industry for accredited certification.

It's common knowledge that OSHA's proposed new cranes and derrick standard, which is still undergoing due-diligence within the agency, will likely stipulate accredited crane operator certification. The Operating Engineers union in Los Angeles, Calif., has an accredited program for its members, while The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) was the only other national organization offering accredited crane operator certification. "It is our hope that CIC's accreditation by NCCA might help OSHA justify such a regulation because operators now have more than one choice," said Dickinson. "We anticipate getting an endorsement from OSHA."

CIC offers both paper and online written exams. At press time, four practical exam sites had been established in Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Alabama, and additional sites were in process of being set up in Minnesota, California, and New York. According to Dickinson, CIC is actively seeking additional practical examiners and exam locations with the goal of having one in every state.

www.craneinstitute.com ■

LESSONS LEARNED

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, JULY 2008 – A WorkSafeBC inspection report issued in mid-July said a 22-year-old man who was crushed to death in January while operating an industrial crane had received only 20 to 90 minutes of training on the machine. At the time of the accident, he swung the boom over the side of the bridge to deliver a load to a bike path below. As the crane began to tip, the operator became trapped between the crane and a section of the bridge. According to the report, the operator was an apprentice ironworker with little practical or theoretical knowledge of crane operations. – *Vancouver Sun*



Photo by Mark Van Manen of The Vancouver Sun

DALLAS, TEXAS, AUGUST 2008 – A 100-ton crane toppled while lowering a pipe weighing 9 tons through the opening of a water pumping station. The crane fell on the station and two vehicles. Three workers were on the ground and three were inside the station. Two were injured. The safety director for the crane rental company, which supplied the crane and certified operator, indicated that many factors

NEWS BRIEFS

- National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), Gainesville, Fla., has partnered with constructNet International (cNI), Phoenix, Ariz., to provide **online instructional language resources** for the construction industry. The program is designed to improve communication at work sites between Spanish-speaking and English-speaking employees. nccer.org

- Nashville, Tenn.-based PureSafety, a provider of online safety training and risk management software solutions, has released a new **online Spanish OSHA 10-hour program** for construction. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, while overall workplace fatalities have dropped 20 percent in the last decade, workplace fatalities among Hispanic workers, especially those working in the construction industry, have risen almost 35 percent in the same period. Two-thirds of all new construction jobs in 2006 were filled by workers of Hispanic descent, many of whom speak Spanish as a first language or are bilingual. This highlights the need for more accessible workplace safety education and training in both English and Spanish. oshatrainingondemand.com

- The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Region VI office in Dallas, Texas, has established a Regional Emphasis Program (REP) covering employees in the construction industry who perform crane operations. The program conducts safety inspections of workplaces in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and sites in New Mexico that are under federal OSHA jurisdiction. **The REP will address various hazards associated with cranes, including but not limited to, being struck by objects, electrocution, crane tip-over, being caught in or between machinery, and falls.**

- New York State has increased criminal and civil penalties for anyone who compromises crane inspections and licensing. The law, which takes effect Nov. 1, makes **altering licensing exams a felony** and imposes fines of up to \$5,000 for inspectors who falsify a report, and permanently revokes their licenses, according to an article on Newsday.com. ■

may have contributed to the accident, such as ground conditions and the weight of the load. – *The Dallas Morning News*

CALGARY, ALBERTA, AUGUST 2008 – Six people, including one child, suffered minor injuries when the light-rail transit train they were passengers on was struck by the boom of a crane. As a result of the collision, the train derailed. The southbound track was scheduled to be closed during the time that the crane was to work on nearby power lines. A fire department spokesperson was unsure why the crane's boom swung into the path of the train before it had clearance to start work. – *Calgary Herald* ■