



# News from SC&RA

KEEPING CURRENT THROUGH SC&RA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Crane Industry Leaders Call for Tower Crane Training and Standards Improvements -- Actions Taken as Crane Accidents Recur --**

**Washington, D.C. (June 5, 2008)** - - Representatives of the leading crane industry trade organizations today announced their support for enhanced training and rigorous new standards for safe crane construction, operation and maintenance. The announcement came less than a week after a tower crane collapsed in New York, the second such accident there this year.

Expressing concern about any accident that occurs in the crane industry, Joel Dandrea, Executive Vice President of the Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association (SC&RA), said the tragic loss of life was particularly troubling and completely unacceptable. He expressed the industry's sympathies to those affected by recent accidents in New York and Florida.

Dandrea said a recently formed SC&RA Tower Crane Task Force has taken on the responsibility of reviewing recent tower crane incidents and related issues in order to put forth a set of industry best practices intended to help prevent accidents and injuries in the future.

"Tower cranes are a proven, reliable technology that have been used successfully in construction projects since the 1940s," Dandrea explained. According to industry statistics, about 2,100 are in use in North America on any given day. Using a conservative estimate of 50 lifts daily per crane, Dandrea estimated more than 105,000 lifts are executed safely every day.

To sustain this track record, Dandrea indicated the industry "...believes it is our responsibility to take an active and progressive role in establishing safe practices and standards for our industry and providing the information necessary for members and non-member companies to reduce workplace accidents and injuries."

Dandrea and other speakers also called for increased training and certification for crane operators and others as well as enhanced standards for crane operation. An advisory committee convened by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in July of 2003 and including SC&RA representatives developed a recommended proposal for the Cranes and Derricks Construction Standard. This advisory committee, known as C-DAC, negotiated all aspects of a new standard and submitted its recommendations to OSHA in July of 2004. The promulgation process has since languished within the Department of Labor. In February of this year, SC&RA wrote to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao to express concern about the lack of progress in adoption of the standard and the resulting disservice to the industry, to workers and the general public. That letter came a full month prior to a crane collapse in New York that killed four.

( more )

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Other industry leaders representing the National Commission For The Certification Of Crane Operators (NCCCO); the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), and NationsBuilders Insurance Services (NBIS), echoed Dandrea's remarks.

Graham Brent, Executive Director of NCCCO, described his group's role in developing performance standards for safe crane operation. Through comprehensive training and testing, NCCCO certifies crane operators and others to ensure they possess the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for crane operation—knowledge which has been assessed by a professionally-constructed and validated examination. By requiring such certification of personnel on their sites, employers stand to reduce their risk of accidents, as well as the accompanying financial and personal loss, Brent explained.

Nick Yaksich, Vice President, Global Public Policy, at the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) said his group and its member companies are working to ensure contractors using tower cranes follow manufacturer's erection procedures, operating and maintenance instructions, and perform all recommended and required inspections.

Bill Smith, President of NationsBuilders Insurance Services, Claims and Risk Management Services, called training and standards the two most important issues facing the crane industry today. He indicated that his organization's data showed that the largest percentage of crane accidents occur as a result of human factors and not as a result of any inherent flaw associated with the equipment or technology. NBIS is the preeminent national provider of specialized insurance coverage for crane operators, lessors, contractors and subcontractors.

Industry leaders indicated that an international World Crane & Transport Summit will be convened in October 2009 on crane and transportation safety to promote harmonization of standards, increase common understanding and promote acceptance of industry best practices.

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### **About SC&RA**

SC&RA is an international trade association of nearly 1,300 member companies from 43 nations. Members are involved in specialized transportation, machinery moving and erecting, industrial maintenance, millwrighting, crane and rigging operations (including tower cranes), manufacturing and rental. A full copy of Joel Dandrea's comments can be found at: <http://www.scranet.org>

### **About NCCCO**

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) was formed in January 1995 as a non profit organization to develop effective performance standards for safe crane operation to assist all segments of construction and general industry. NCCCO's mission is to provide a thorough, independent assessment of operator knowledge and skills and, thereby, to enhance lifting equipment safety, reduce workplace risk, improve performance records, stimulate training, and give due recognition to the professional skill of crane operation. A full copy of Graham Brent's comments can be found at: <http://www.nccco.org/>

### **About AEM**

AEM is the international trade association representing the interests of 800 member companies that manufacture equipment, products and services used worldwide in the construction, agriculture, mining, forestry and utility sectors. AEM is headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and has offices in Washington, D.C. Ottawa, Brussels and Beijing. A full copy of Nick Yaksich's comments can be found at: <http://www.aem.org>

### **About NBIS**

NBIS is the preeminent national provider of specialized insurance coverage for crane operators, lessors, contractors and subcontractors. The organization is registered in 49 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to insurance, NBIS offers comprehensive risk management services designed to enhance contractor knowledge and understanding of safe operations and maintenance practices for construction cranes, rigging and hardware. A full copy of Bill Smith's comments can be found at: <http://www.nbis.com/>

**Statement of Joel Dandrea**  
**Executive Vice President - Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association**  
**SC&RA Tower Crane News Conference**  
**National Press Club**  
**June 5, 2008**

Thank you for joining us today.

I am Joel Dandrea, Executive Vice President of the Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association.

For those of you not familiar with our organization, SC&RA is an international trade association of nearly 1,300 member companies from 43 nations. Our members are involved in specialized transportation, machinery moving and erecting, industrial maintenance, millwrighting, crane and rigging operations (including tower cranes), manufacturing and rental.

First and foremost, we would like to offer our sympathies to those affected by the recent tragic accidents involving tower cranes. Any accident that occurs in our industry is of great concern to us, but the tragic loss of life is particularly troubling and completely unacceptable. Because recent incidents are currently under investigation, neither I nor any of our other panelists will be able to comment on specific details.

That said, SC&RA is here today along with the leading organizations representing other aspects of our industry, to address concerns raised by the media and public about the safety of tower cranes. This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SC&RA, and for that entire history, safety has consistently remained paramount for our organization and its member companies. It is, in fact, clearly articulated in our organization's mission statement.

Cranes, in general, play a vital role in the world economy and are frequently used in the energy industry, the development of critical infrastructure and in various aspects of commercial and residential construction. Tower cranes are a proven, reliable technology that have been used successfully in construction projects since the 1940s. Of the more than 3,000 tower cranes in North America, about 2,100 are in use on any given day. With a conservative estimate of 50 lifts daily per crane, more than 105,000 lifts are executed **SAFELY** every day.

To sustain this track record, we believe it is our responsibility to take an active and progressive role in establishing safe practices and standards for our industry and providing the information necessary for members and non-member companies to reduce workplace accidents and injuries. Some of our contributions to the safety of the crane industry include:

- The creation of the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) in January of 1995 as an independent non-profit organization. You will be hearing directly from Graham Brent, Executive Director regarding their initiatives.
- After three months of preparation and planning, at our annual conference in April 2008, we formed the SC&RA Tower Crane Task Force. This group has taken on the responsibility of reviewing recent tower crane incidents and related issues that will enable the group to put forth a set of industry “best practices” to help prevent accidents and injuries in the future. In addition, the task force will work to address issues that pertain to local governments’ desire to enact legislation so that meaningful laws can be passed that will improve jobsite safety.
- SC&RA is a strong advocate for operator certification and the enforcement of unified standards. In fact, an SC&RA representative was among 23 individuals appointed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in July of 2003 to develop a recommended proposal for the Cranes and Derricks Construction Standard. This advisory committee known as C-DAC, worked together to negotiate all aspects of a new standard and submitted its recommendations to OSHA in July of 2004. The promulgation process has since languished within the Department of Labor, however SC&RA has remained committed to the establishment of nationwide operator certification and standards. In February of this year, SC&RA wrote to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao to express our concern about the lack of progress in adoption of the standard and the resulting disservice to our industry, to workers and the general public.
- The association also continues to produce new and updated training videos, manuals and other tools every year to ensure our industry operates as safely as possible. We produce a weekly newsletter for our members and two monthly educational magazines that are distributed to more than 35,000 companies around the world. We conduct an annual workshop that features multiple sessions on safety and risk management and participate in international events to address current crane safety and related issues. We also will be convening an international, World Crane & Transport Summit next October on crane and transportation safety to promote harmonization of standards, increase common understanding and promote acceptance of industry best practices.

You will also hear today from representatives from our allied industries who are working tirelessly to make their equipment even safer.

Our association takes safety responsibilities very seriously. Any injury or fatality within our industry is one too many.

At this time I would like to turn the podium over to Graham Brent.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**Graham J. Brent**

June 5, 2008

### NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CRANE OPERATORS: AN INDUSTRY SAFETY INITIATIVE

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) was formed in January 1995 as a non profit organization to develop effective performance standards for safe crane operation to assist all segments of construction and general industry.

The establishment of NCCCO came in the aftermath of the 1989 San Francisco tower crane collapse, and reflected a genuine and earnest desire by the industry most affected by such accidents to improve the safety of lifting operations. Initially coordinated by the Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association (SC&RA), this proactive industry effort involved the selfless dedication of experts over an almost 10 year period toward the development of fair, valid and reliable assessments, through certification, of personnel who work with and around cranes.

NCCCO's mission was—and remains today – to provide a thorough, independent assessment of operator knowledge and skills and, thereby, to enhance lifting equipment safety, reduce workplace risk, improve performance records, stimulate training, and give due recognition to the professional skill of crane operation.

The industry representatives who participate in NCCCO activities represent such groups as: contractors, labor unions, rental firms, owners, steel erectors, manufacturers, construction firms, training consultants, and insurance companies. Since NCCCO began testing in April 1996, over 325,000 written and practical exams have been administered to more than 65,000 crane operators in all 50 states.

The success of the mobile crane program led to calls for an expansion of CCO certification into other areas. Tower crane operator certification was added in 2004 and overhead crane operator certification in 2005. This year will see the introduction of CCO certification for signalpersons (those individuals who provide hand and voice signals to crane operators), followed shortly thereafter by a certification program for riggers. Additional levels of certification of riggers will be available in 2009.

Also in 2009, NCCCO will begin certifying operators of articulating boom mobile cranes (or knucklebooms as they are also known). And NCCCO is currently in discussion with a state agency to develop written exams for crane inspectors, also known as certifiers.

The wealth of crane knowledge these experts have brought to this effort has been coupled with the psychometric expertise of the nation's most prestigious credentialing organizations. One of these, International Assessment Institute (IAI), also assists NCCCO in the administration and further development of written and practical examinations used in this national certification program.

This pooling of crane-related experience and knowledge, supplemented with input from OSHA and ANSI/ASME committees, is unprecedented in this industry. The result has been the development of a sound, valid and effective test of an operator's proficiency.

The NCCCO program is unique in this industry in that it:

- actively encourages training, yet is separate from it ("third-party")
- verifies that training has been effective
- was developed in a non-regulatory environment
- is modeled on ANSI/ASME consensus lines
- meets recognized professional credentialing criteria
- has participation from all industry sectors
- was developed *by* industry *for* industry, and continues to be supported by it

Moreover, the NCCCO program is:

- recognized by federal OSHA as meeting its requirements for crane operator competency
- nationally accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- nationwide in scope
- independent of labor relations policies (a labor/management joint initiative)
- psychometrically sound and therefore legally defensible
- validated through industry and peer review at all stages of development
- administered in a standardized format, under complete security, at all times

Individuals certified through NCCCO possess the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for crane operation—knowledge which has been assessed by a professionally-constructed and validated examination. By requiring CCO certification of personnel on their sites, employers stand to reduce their risk of accidents, as well as the accompanying financial and personal loss.

With the reaffirmation of the Agreement between the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and NCCCO, employers can be confident that CCO certification meets the requirements of OSHA and ASME standards for crane operator competency. Moreover, NCCCO's accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) and

the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) indicates the program has met the highest professional standards of examination development and administration.

Clearly, everyone—employers, operators, and the general public—has much to gain from ensuring only qualified personnel operate cranes. The NCCCO program is already helping to save lives; to protect life, limb and property; and, generally, to make the work site a safer place.

**More information:** Graham Brent, Executive Director, National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO), 2750 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 505, Fairfax, VA 22031. 703/560-2391, 703/625-5868, gbrent@nccco.org.

## **NCCCO PROGRAM STATUS**

*JUNE 2008*

### **NCCCO "BY THE NUMBERS"**

***NO. EXAMS ADMINISTERED: 325,000+***

***NO. OF WRITTEN TEST ADMINISTRATIONS CONDUCTED: 5,000+***

***NO. OF PRACTICAL TEST SITES APPROVED: 1,700+***

***NO. OF CRANES APPROVED FOR PRACTICAL EXAM TESTING: 5,000+***

***NO. OF STATES IN WHICH TESTING HAS BEEN CONDUCTED: 50***

### **CERTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE:**

***MOBILE CRANE OPERATOR***

***TOWER CRANE OPERATOR***

***OVERHEAD CRANE OPERATOR***

***RIGGER (2008)***

***SIGNALPERSON (2008)***

***ARTICULATING CRANE OPERATOR (2009)***

### **ACCREDITATIONS:**

***AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE / ISO  
NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CERTIFYING AGENCIES  
NATIONAL SKILL STANDARDS BOARD***

### **FEDERAL RECOGNITION:**

***OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY***

### **OFFICIAL APPROVAL:**

***DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS***

**STATES ADOPTING CCO PROGRAM:**

*WEST VIRGINIA (2001)*  
*HAWAII (2003)*  
*NEW JERSEY (2004)*  
*CALIFORNIA (2005)*  
*MONTANA (2005)*  
*NEW MEXICO (2007)*  
*MINNESOTA (2007)*  
*NEVADA (2007)*  
*UTAH (2007)*  
*WASHINGTON (2010)*  
*FLORIDA (PROPOSED)*  
*PENNSYLVANIA (PROPOSED)*  
*MARYLAND (PROPOSED)*  
*IOWA (PROPOSED)*

**NATIONAL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS:**

*AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (ASCE)*  
*AMERICAN SUBCONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (ASA)*  
*ARTICULATING CRANE COUNCIL OF NORTH AMERICA (ACCNA)*  
*ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (AEM)*  
*ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA (AGC)*  
*CRANE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (CMAA)*  
*INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS (IUOE)*  
*SPECIALIZED CARRIERS & RIGGING ASSOCIATION (SC&RA)*  
*STEEL ERECTORS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA (SEAA)*

**Statement of Nick Yaksich  
Vice President, Global Public Policy  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)  
SC&RA Tower Crane News Conference  
National Press Club  
June 5, 2008**

Good afternoon. My name is Nick Yaksich. I am Vice President, Global Public Policy, at the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM).

AEM is the international trade association representing the interests of 800 member companies that manufacture equipment, products and services used worldwide in the construction, agriculture, mining, forestry and utility sectors. We are headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and have offices here in Washington, Ottawa, Brussels and Beijing.

AEM and AEM member companies strongly support the Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association's (SC&RA) effort with its Tower Crane Task Force formed in April. While we represent companies that manufacture tower cranes, as is often the case with our diverse membership, these companies are actively represented on the SCRA Task Force. AEM stands ready to support the Task Force efforts because both associations are committed to improve safety throughout the industry.

Safety is integrated in our association's programs and services. Examples of such integration include the Safety Zone Exhibit at the recent CONEXPO-CON/AGG Exposition held in Las Vegas in March 2008; AEM's annual Product Safety Seminar; and our numerous technical and safety committees that meet on a regular basis. In addition, AEM has formed alliances with OSHA and MSHA as part of an ongoing commitment to bring stakeholders together for open discussions on workplace safety practices.

AEM is committed to better serving its members' needs by identifying, influencing and communicating standards and regulatory development, and compliance worldwide to achieve the goal of "do it once, do it right, do it globally," while advocating the safe operation of equipment.

Our top priorities in technical services are to:

- Establish relationships and develop alliances with government agencies to provide technical, environmental and safety requirements pertaining to members' products.
- Become the industry resource leader for equipment safety information by developing and expanding distribution of AEM safety manuals and materials.
- Identify, participate in and communicate the developments of new standards, regulations and compliance requirements worldwide.

AEM currently has more than 30 product-specific groups covering nearly 225 product lines designed to aid companies which manufacture and market similar equipment so that they can work together on issues of mutual interest and formulate industry-wide courses of action.

These product specific groups bring together peers, competitors and associated suppliers to :

- Address common industry issues;
- Participate in efforts to harmonize national and international standards;
- Establish industry responses to government regulatory requirements;
- Combine experience and synergies to positively impact product safety and
- Interact and communicate with supplier and customer groups.

The critical principles of tower crane safety apply to procedures we encourage for all products manufactured by our members. AEM member companies strongly advise and encourage:

- following manufacturer's erection procedures;
- following manufacturer's operating and maintenance instructions;
- performing all recommended and required inspections; and
- support training materials specific to the product and comprehensive training.

Next week, the International Standard Organization's Technical Committee 96 on Cranes will be meeting in Malaysia. The majority of the crane types covered by ISO/TC96 and its subcommittees are manufactured for global markets and are used in the construction, manufacturing, processing and transportation industries wherever the safe lifting and moving of loads is required. AEM member company representatives are active participants in the United States Technical Advisory Group.

The progressive introduction of new International Standards and the regular review and if necessary, the revision of published standards by the Technical committee will eliminate technical barriers to trade and have a direct and positive effect on general safety by reducing potential hazards.

AEM is an association that pursues alliances and partnerships as a critical part of its business strategy. AEM is deeply committed to do our part to make safety a top priority and supports the proactive efforts of the SC & RA Task Force.

**Statement of Bill Smith**  
**President - NationsBuilders Insurance Services**  
**Claims and Risk Management Services**  
**SC&RA Tower Crane News Conference**  
**National Press Club**  
**June 5, 2008**

Good Afternoon.

My name is Bill Smith. I am President of NationsBuilders Insurance Services Claims and Risk Management Services.

NBIS is the preeminent national provider of specialized insurance coverage for crane operators, lessors, contractors and subcontractors. We are registered in 49 states and the District of Columbia. In addition to insurance, we offer comprehensive risk management services designed to enhance contractor knowledge and understanding of safe operations and maintenance practices for construction cranes, rigging and hardware.

NBIS is in a unique position to assess accident data to determine if there are trends developing as well as to assess root causation. We are then in a position to notify member companies of the need to adopt new procedures and practices and strive to educate the entire industry about leading edge concepts in risk management and proactive preventative techniques.

While I cannot speak today about the specifics of the recent accident in New York, I would like to offer some perspectives with regard to what NBIS considers a growing need for training and enhanced standards for safe crane operations. These two critically important subjects – training and standards – are at the heart of any discussions about the recent incident and any steps the industry can take to reduce the potential for future accidents.

My focus on training derives from my personal experience as a crane operator, and Safety Health and Training Director for the Operating Engineers International Union. I also served as Corporate Safety Manager for the largest crane company in North America and in various roles at the U.S. Department of Labor including a position at OSHA as a Safety and Health Specialist in the Directorate of Construction focusing on construction industry regulations, crane standards, and interpretation and policy.

From my experience in these roles, and my analysis of NBIS underwriting over a period of years, I have come to a fundamental conclusion with regard to crane safety.

The largest percentage of crane accidents occur as a result of human factors and not as a result of any inherent flaw associated with the equipment or technology.

Generally speaking, the equipment itself is safe and reliable. But the technology in our industry continues to advance. New technology creates a need to stay current on technological changes and understand how to properly utilize the safety features engineered into new equipment.

The planning, placement, assembly and operation of cranes – especially tower cranes – requires a complete and comprehensive approach to risk management that encompasses factors as diverse as a thorough analysis of underground features where cranes are located, to pre-assembly inspection, to proper use of the equipment within its design specifications. When a professional risk management approach is applied, the potential for accidents is significantly reduced. This is especially the case when that risk management approach incorporates up to date training and education for crane operators, riggers, signalmen, contractors, subcontractors and others. An example of this is the newest ASME ANSI B30.5 2007 Volume for mobile cranes. In this volume the delineation and lines of responsibility are clearly defined in the operation of mobile cranes. The committees decided that it needed to define the roles of individuals working with cranes and take away the existing ambiguity that was left up to interpretation.

While many crane operators have become certified by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators, such certification is not uniformly required nationwide. Some states and municipalities have their own requirements. Some don't have any requirements. Further, not all contractors demand that their operators adhere to the certification standards developed by the NCCCO.

This highlights even more the essential nature of professional training across the board.

It also points to a need for uniformity of standards nationwide. Our industry is, in my opinion very progressive with regard to regulations and standards. We have worked hard under the aegis of the Cranes and Derricks Advisory Committee (C-DAC) to develop a draft standard that would serve as the first significant update of the current OSHA standard originally adopted in the early 1970's. As referenced in earlier remarks, OSHA has yet to act on our recommendation, though a number of positive steps have been taken.

Just within the last 24 hours, we have learned that the draft standard has moved from OSHA to a peer review panel, then to the Office of Management & Budget where we believe it will be subject to review for 30 – 90 days.

It cannot be overemphasized that the time for action is now. Quite frankly, there are companies currently operating that either do not know or are confused about current standards. The larger companies strive to adhere to the latest knowledge and apply best practices and the kind of comprehensive risk management systems I have described. But national uniformity of standards is essential and government must expedite the process.

Today, you have before you the four leading organizations dedicated to crane safety and the advancement of best practices. Collectively, we agree that a renewed commitment to professional training at all levels of the construction industry is vital. Equally important is an enhanced effort on the part of government to update standards that can apply nationwide.

At NBIS, we will continue to offer comprehensive risk management consulting, technical resources to contractors and subcontractors, and underwriting and claims teams that will continue to take a tailored and specialized approach to the needs of our clients. An example of this is our new RMSS I have with me today. In that package are Risk Managing Tools including the newest standards previously mentioned, Safety Tools for developing a culture and continuous improvement, Training Tools for employees, and Transportation Tools for hauling equipment. We also will continue to work in collaboration with our industry partners to enhance training and standards adoption for the increased safety of the people in our profession and the general public.

Thank you for your kind attention.

**Statement of Frank Bardonaro**  
**Chairman of the SC&RA Tower Crane Task Force**  
**SC&RA Tower Crane News Conference**  
**National Press Club**  
**June 5, 2008**

Good afternoon.

I am Frank Bardonaro, President and COO of AmQuip Crane Rental, one of the largest U.S. crane rental companies. I was formerly the crane and rigging expert for FEMA and currently service as chairman of SC&RA's Tower Crane Safety Task Force which was formed in April of this year.

On behalf of the task force and SC&RA, I want to thank the industry experts for their commitment to safety and their comments today. I believe their remarks reflect the common theme that safety is and will remain at the heart of all we do as individual companies and as an industry in general. This is why my task force was created and this is why we are all here today.

I especially want to thank our media representatives for your interest and participation. Though we all share great sadness over recent events, we hope you will acknowledge our unwavering determination to be progressive, proactive and forthright in our industry practices and in our discussions with you regarding safety concerns in our industry as well as the general public.

This task force is addressing a range of issues related to crane and rigging safety. We are working with a broad range of professionals from our industry and related fields to ensure we fully consider all dimensions of the subject. We will continue to focus on the need for additional and specific training and a harmonization of standards that we believe will renew confidence in our technology, equipment and workforce.

Although recent tragedies have placed the tower crane industry to the center of attention, the fact are that the tower crane industry is among the safest types of construction equipment in the U.S.

A recent study conducted by the University of Tennessee and partially funded by OSHA indicated that during a recent seven year period, just 4.1% of all crane related fatalities were attributed to tower crane incidents. Please understand our target is zero accidents and injuries. We will continue to work as a coalition, with this team as well as Federal, local and state governments to improve safety performance throughout the construction industry.

Again, thank you all for your participation and we look forward to answering your questions.