



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

S: 24 June 2011

CESO-ZA

23 May 2011

**MEMORANDUM FOR: USACE MSC AND DISTRICT CHIEFS OF OPERATIONS AND
CHIEFS OF SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

SUBJECT: Cranes/Derricks and Hoisting Operations Safety Review and Report

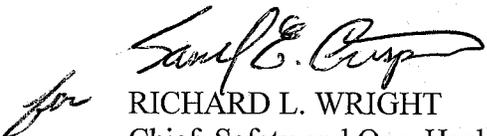
1. In the past 11 months, USACE has experienced an inordinately high number of crane-related accidents and incidents – both from contractor operations and from USACE-owned and operated cranes. Three of these were fatal, quite a few have resulted in permanent partial disabilities, and overall they incurred in excess of \$5 million in property losses and damage. The most recent USACE accident involved the total loss of an \$800,000 crane and could easily have taken the operator's life. Unfortunately, a common factor that connects most of these crane incidents is that our safety policies in EM 385-1-1 are not being fully followed or enforced. This must be corrected now.
2. In 2008, EM 385-1-1 was significantly updated, including a major revision to Section 16, Cranes and Hoisting Equipment. This revision immediately implemented several significant changes for both USACE and contractor crane activities that directly paralleled OSHA's draft crane/derrick standard, to include operator training and certification. Recently, Change #5 to EM 385-1-1 was published, bringing the EM rigging requirements into full compliance with all details of the final OSHA regulation; Change 6 will do the same for cranes and hoisting equipment this summer.
3. It is critical that our personnel and activities comply with these requirements. Crane and hoisting operations (including rigging) are High-Hazard Activities, often having the potential for loss of life and/or catastrophic property damage. In order to identify any weaknesses or inconsistencies in our national readiness for crane and hoisting operations, the Chief of Operations of each District that operates cranes and/or hoisting equipment with USACE personnel shall promptly conduct a review of these activities and prepare a report outlining their status. The report will follow the format in the enclosures to this memo.
4. District Chiefs of Operations shall submit the report through their District Safety Office to the MSC/Division Safety Manager. MSC/Division Safety and Operations Chiefs will review the information for their Districts and submit a consolidated MSC report to the HQUSACE Safety and Occupational Health Office, CESO, not later than 24 June 2011. CESO will provide a national readiness report for crane, hoisting and rigging activities to the Deputy Commanding General and include any associated actions needed.

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5. We appreciate the effort that this action will require, but it is necessary that we immediately take action to correct any program deficiencies that might continue this trend in crane and hoisting activity accidents. Any crane, hoisting or rigging incident or accident, regardless of severity shall be reported immediately to the District Safety Office, who will forward the basic accident facts through the MSC SO to CESO as soon as possible, but within 24 hours. In addition, any such incidents/accidents occurring through the remainder of this FY shall be entered as a Preliminary Accident Notification (PAN) in the ENGLink Accident Reporting System. All of these incidents/ accidents shall be investigated to the appropriate level to identify the root causes of these events. If you have any questions regarding this memo, the Headquarters Safety Office POC is Ellen B. Stewart, CSP: 202-761-8565.


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Encl.

