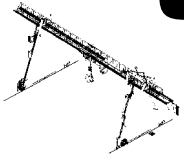


# UPDATE



Summer, 1997

## P&H USER MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 3-5

### 1997 Theme: Improved Productivity

The 1997 annual P&H Portal Crane Users Meeting is now set for September 3-5, and early registrations are already coming in. You are strongly encouraged to attend this valuable meeting where you will have the opportunity to discuss and solve many problems that limit your uptime and cost your company significant dollars. Just one problem solved or idea to improve uptime or safety will make your time investment worthwhile. This year we will focus on improving productivity and promoting safe operations.

Attendance lists from previous meetings are also available upon request to further illustrate the value of these meetings. Last fall we had 17 log crane installations represented at the meeting, with 24 mill personnel in attendance, and we expect many more for 1997.

See you there!

## MAINTENANCE TIPS

Many customers ask us what precautions to take during the hurricane season.

1. First of all, and most importantly, the tracks must be kept clean along with the wheel treads. Use cement type bricks for cleaners and change often if dirt fills the pores.
2. Next, make sure all of your gantry drive motors and brakes are in proper working order. Check the brake shoes or discs for wear and signs of heat damage. Assure proper air gaps. Remember that the air gap will be reduced under operating heat conditions.
3. Be sure that you know where your tie down cables are and have a drill to make sure all personnel know who does what in the event of an emergency tie down. All cranes should have tie down cables (no chains), even if you have storm brakes. If you can't find your cables, use a minimum 1" sling cable and secure tightly to the end stop. If severe winds are expected, place the trolley on the downwind end and secure with come alongs.
4. If you crane has storm brakes, make sure they all function properly and are applying pressure to the railhead upon application. If you don't have storm brakes, we highly recommend that you consider adding them to your crane. Circular cranes generally are allowed to "weathervane" with their brakes released and the grapple in the high position.
5. Use a weather alert radio for monitoring severe weather, or make other arrangements to get early warning about threatening conditions.
6. Check for and remove any loose material on the crane walkways or on the trolley.
7. Some users grab a load of logs and snug up the hoist cables. This could pose serious problems if the grapple were to be dragged through other equipment or bounced against the crane legs or sill beams.

## **MAINTENANCE TIPS (cont'd)**

### **Inverter Operations**

Your inverter is programmed with a unique set of drive parameters for each motion. When you change the board that contains the stored values, in most cases, you must reload the correct parameters for proper operation. Don't assume that the board will be supplied with the correct programming. Double check and avoid problems. Review your C&O manual for proper procedures.

Rain and high humidity can damage your inverter's electronic components very quickly. Several users have experienced high failure rates where panel and/or control house doors have been left open, exposing the controls to the weather. Keep doors closed tight. Install an automatic door closer on all of your control house doors and don't block them open.

### **Storm Brake Update**

There have been three recent crane runaways due to high winds and cranes not being secured with cables, chocks, or storm brakes. One crane was a total loss, after having sheared off its end stops and falling over into an adjacent barge unloading waterway. The others were slowed by the grapple and load acting as an anchor, avoiding serious damage.

Storm brakes perform three vital functions:

1. Risk management against excessive crane damage and extended downtime.
2. Production efficiency enhancement by allowing safe operations to continue when threatening weather is forecast but not an immediate danger, where crane tie downs would otherwise be applied and the crane idled.
3. Maintenance tool as a jacking device to allow for quick repairs and PM inspections. If your crane is not equipped with P&H Dynamic Storm Brakes, call your P&H Portal Crane representative and ask for information on these invaluable braking devices.