

**PORTAL CRANE TRAINING TECHNIQUES  
& WOODYARD MANAGEMENT**  
*By Chuck Stoneman*

Chuck's presentation walked the group through the layout (flow) and start-up of a new portal crane. He used slides to illustrate what makes for a safe operation. This included the operator and truck driver training, the different stacking techniques. The outline of his presentation is as follows:

**FIRST TOPIC** – WOODYARD MANAGEMENT WITH REGARDS TO SAFETY

Our recommendation is that proper written instructions can be given to truck operators at the plant gate or weight scales office regarding safe plant procedures. Let's review some examples of practices used at various sites.

1. Diagrammed traffic flow patterns in the logyard.
2. Proper area to take tie down cables off loads.
3. Loaded trucks should stop a safe distance away from the vehicle that is being unloaded. The crane operator signals the truck operator by using horn signals from the crane.

One (1) blast to stop.

Two (2) blasts to move.

4. The truck driver should await a signal from the crane before proceeding to the unloading area in front of deck.
5. A proper and distinctive set of operating signals in written and diagram form should be made available to each truck operator. (Use large sign in area)
6. Cranes that do have camera systems should also have emergency signals given to all truckers so that they may give clear and precise signals to the crane operator in an emergency situation.
7. All cranes should have a set of hand signals displayed on the crane for truckers to view.
8. Truck operators should always be in a clear position of the load, and in sight of the crane operator at all times.
9. The operator of the truck should leave the truck cab when the trailer is being unloaded.
10. Vehicle should depart in a safe, efficient manner.

11. Crane has the right-of-way in the logyard.
12. A 6-inch space between the truck trailer frame or pole is required.
13. A safety manual should be given to all operators regarding safe operation of the crane.
14. The operator should be fully trained regarding the safe operation of the particular controls on his crane.
15. Loads should be hoisted properly.

Now that we've discussed the basic safety aspects of woodyard management, let's cover the technical aspects.

Key Items:

1. Traffic Flow
2. Load Configurations
3. Storage Locations and Orientation
4. Inventory Levels
5. Yard Surface Configuration
6. P. M. Program
7. Spare Parts Program
8. Basic Operator Training Parameters:
  - Off Crane Preparations
  - Gain Confidence – Get Moving
  - Make Operators Maintenance Conscious