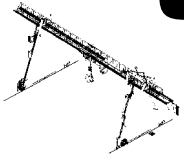


# UPDATE



Summer, 1998

## P&H USER MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER 9-10-11

### 1998 Theme: Maximum Uptime

The 1998 annual P&H Portal Crane Users Meeting is now set for September 9-10-11, 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 maximum uptime 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 12 log crane installations represented at the meeting, with 18 mill personnel in attendance, and we expect many more for 1998. 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. If your crane could swing and strike other equipment, then tie down to properly designed anchor points.
6. Use a weather alert radio for monitoring severe weather, or make other arrangements to get early warning about threatening conditions.
7. Check for and remove any loose material on the crane walkways or on the trolley.
8. 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)**

### **Portal Maintenance Tips**

1. With the advent of the adjustable frequency controls, there has been a significant reduction in brake wear due to the programmed deceleration and stop that the controls offer prior to brake set. One resulting problem that has been reported is that brakes now are often overlooked in the inspection and PM process. This could lead to brake malfunction due to other than brake lining wear problems such as lack of lubrication at pivot points, water soaked linings (be sure covers are in place to), or dirt accumulation. Make sure you keep the brakes inspected often.
2. Don't forget the cable reel pinion and gear in your lube schedule. Lack of proper lubrication can cause premature failure and great expense.

### **Storm Brake Update**

If you have an 8 wheel portal crane, conventional designed storm brakes do not fit since they are usually mounted between two sets of 2 wheel bogies on each corner of the crane. For 8 wheel cranes, we can supply a new bogie frame with a cut out between the two wheels for the storm brake. We have also designed a special two brake system for these 8 wheel cranes at a cost savings over the 4 brake system. This allows the driver bogies to the left unmodified. For more information on storm braking systems and how they could prevent considerable downtime and expense, call Gary Otto at 414-671-7648.

### **CPPA/TAPPI Portal Crane User Committee Report**

The CPPA/TAPPI Portal Crane User Committee met in Edmonton, Alberta during the week of May 11th. The meeting featured a woodyard tour as well as very interesting presentations and discussions. A detailed set of meeting minutes and an attendance list is available upon your request or from their Web site.

This group meets annually and allows for open discussions of crane maintenance and woodyard operations. The spring 1999 meeting will be held in southeastern U.S. Watch for details.