



Greetings All,

Welcome to the first VCA/Incolink Crane Safety Bulletin for 2014. It's been a hot start to the year across the southern parts of the country, with heat wave conditions extending across an entire working week. Hopefully those of you who were working during that period managed to cope better with the heat than our power grid and infrastructure.

One of the important messages that health professionals spread in extreme weather is to keep fluids up, and that doesn't include beer. Dehydration is a major safety concern for our health and especially in areas of the country where the weather fluctuates so much, it's important that we are always prepared. When the maximum temperature is 44° one day and 24° the next, it can be easy enough to forget a water bottle, especially when you may be jumping in and out of different machines.



The cranes and other machines we operate are just as susceptible to heat stress. Good daily pre start checks of all machines is even more important when weather conditions are going to be extreme. Radiators and air filters need to be clear of dust and obstructions and engine bay insulation needs to be in good condition, as well as checking correct coolant levels to enable the engine to operate efficiently and safely on hot days.



One of the topics that has been discussed in these bulletins before is **Using the Right Tool for the Job**. It seems like a simple enough concept, yet there are times that many of us have seen machines used incorrectly, or in an inappropriate manner. Overloading any machine is poor practice and in the picture below, the two sets of legs in between a rock and a hard place are certainly acting as a poor replacement for good judgement.



And this picture below certainly demonstrates that not only must the machine be the right one for the task, the competency of the people used to operate machinery must also be correct.



Having all of the correct equipment and personnel in place should be a great way to start the new year in a safe manner. Taking short cuts, or trying to complete a task with the wrong equipment is a sure fire way to get 2014 off to a poor start.

It only takes a split second for what seemed like a good idea at the time to turn into a decision that can have lasting consequences.

Cheers for now and have a Safe Week.

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