

Greetings All,

With the advent of modern technology comes the bonus of the World Wide Web, and the instant way we can find and share information as we need it. Most people these days have cameras on their telephones and can easily upload pictures onto a wide range of formats, whether that be Facebook or other sites, or just texting between interested persons. Sometimes that can be of great benefit – but as with most things, sometimes there can be an opposite reaction as well. The picture below is an example of when a picture really does speak volumes.



Managing safety on the sites we work on is the most important thing any of us can do. A great example is looking out for power lines - both above the ground and below. It is such a vital task for safe crane operation. Even the simplest reminder such as seen here below on one of our member's items of hire equipment can be the difference between being aware of our surroundings or an accident that can change people's lives forever.



One of the things that we have spoken about in the bulletins before is how ingenious some of the people we work with can be. Riggers especially have an amazing ability to see things that others may not be able to see – we have to be like that to be good at our jobs. Finding solutions to other people's complex problems is not something that comes easily. Getting a large machine out of a building or making a truck load of steel resemble a building is harder than it looks!

In saying that, it's fair to say that sometimes some people could perhaps leave their genius at the front gate and try and follow simple industry accepted practices. Extending a ladder as seen in the picture below with some pine studs is never acceptable. Working at heights is a major risk that we face in our work and proper access should be part of the Task assessment that we complete before starting a job.



Any type of ladder should always be the last option used for working at heights and some form of EWP or scaffold should be erected wherever possible. However, if a ladder is the safest option, make sure it is the right one for the job! Making home-made extensions to ladders or balancing ladders across a couple of scaffold planks and getting your mate to hang onto it should be left in the 1950's!

Cheers for now and have a safe week!

Brent Stacey www.cica.com.au