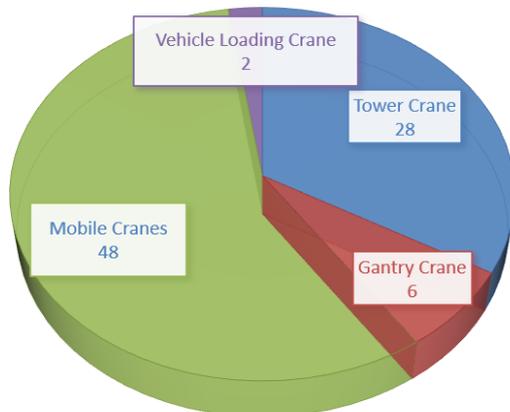


The Devil is in the Data

I'm pleased to announce a new collaboration project with Worksafe Victoria involving the collection of raw incident data involving cranes and our construction industry dating back to Jan 2019.

Such data is politically sensitive due to the complexity around determining root cause(s), legal liability, penalties, and outcomes. To avoid interference with any ongoing investigations or reputational damage, the data has been deidentified and certain fields of information have been removed. What we are left with are broad categories and preliminary factual descriptions of equipment type, job type and incident type from which we can learn a surprising amount about what is really going wrong out there when an accident happens. I'll be focussing many future bulletins on topics that relate to the analysis and findings from this raw data and what these accumulating statistics point to. Let's start with Crane Types.

84 INCIDENTS IN 2019 THAT INVOLVED A CRANE



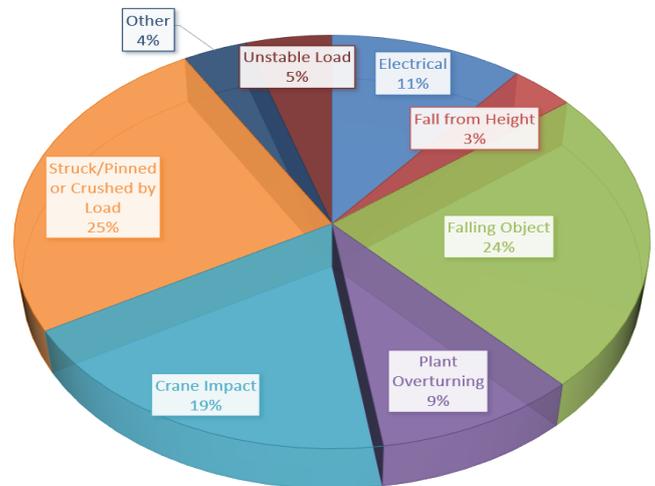
While it looks like the mobile cranes are overrepresented here, remember there are nearly 4 times as many compared to the number of tower cranes in Victoria. The way I read this is there is considerable work to be done reducing incidents in both sectors. Of the 84 incidents 42 were near misses and while it is fortunate that there were no injuries or deaths, I consider them just as relevant as the other 42 incidents that we are analysing in this data.

The three largest hazard categories are as follows:

1. Struck/Pinned or Crushed by Load - 25%
2. Falling Object – 24%
3. Crane Impact during operation – 19%

What is noteworthy here, is that the leading category of hazard has a 95% injury rate whereas the next two highest occurring hazards have virtually no injuries and are virtually all 'near misses' or 'Dangerous Occurrences'

TYPES OF INCIDENT (ALL CRANE TYPES)



To dissect the leading category of incidents: "Struck/Pinned or Crushed by Load", we are presented with a variety of causal factors. But firstly, we need to break these down to three major incident types.

- Hand/Finger 58%
- Body/Limb 32%
- Head 10%

Most hand injuries occur on dogmen while slinging or landing loose loads like pipes or steel in stillages or when wrapping chains around a loose load. The causal factors are so numerous and varied, that it's not easy (or useful) to statistically summarise.

The body crush incidents often occurred due to load swing or unstable load shifts. On more than one occasion, the causal factor was a snagged load.

There were 2 serious head injuries which were both from impacts with the rigging chains, one load swing, and the other an unintended chain disconnection.

In summary, while many potentially serious near misses occur like plant tip overs and falling objects, a large amount of dogmen are being struck or crushed by loads while slinging or landing them causing numerous lacerations and fractures to all parts of the body. The knock-on effects are disastrous for both individuals, companies, and industry as a whole. We must remain vigilant and remember our slinging correct techniques and the golden rule is, "if something doesn't look right, don't lift it" Lifting paths should be clear of personnel and obstructions and loads should be initially lifted just off the ground to check stability and for excess movement. The data shows that crush injuries are happening for many different reasons, but each incident has one thing in common, it was avoidable. Complacency is the enemy, and it only takes one small mistake and your life or your mate's life could be changed forever. *Stay Safe -CICA*