

Best Practices for Using Two-Way Radios

Workers on the ground usually use hand signals to communicate with crane operators. But sometimes an operator's line of sight may be obstructed, or the operator may need more information than hand signals can provide. In such cases, two-way radios can be helpful.

Before Using Radios in Crane Operations

- Submit a [Radio Frequency Coordination Request Form](#) to WorkSafeBC for a secure, dedicated radio frequency.
- Test radios before using them. Make sure the signals are clear and reliable.
- The crane operator must use a hands-free radio.
- Establish radio contact between the operator and workers on the ground before operating the crane.
- Follow your employer's rules for radio use. Do not use radios for personal discussions unrelated to crane operations.

Safe Work Practices for Using Radios

- Press the button on the receiver and hold it down for at least half a second before you start talking.
- Ask crane operators if they can hear you clearly. Adjust the distance between your mouth and the radio's microphone to get the best signal.
- Stay in regular radio contact and provide updates on what is happening. This helps keep the crew aware of the progress of the lifting operations.



- Speak in a clear, loud, confident voice. This helps avoid confusion or doubt for the crane operator about commands.
- Let crane operators know what will happen next. Tell them about the workload and the start and end of breaks.
- Be consistent with how you communicate. Stay with either radio or hand signals.
- The operator should wait for the "all clear" message before moving the crane.
- If at any time the radio is not working and the crane operator's line of sight is blocked, stop work immediately.

Reference: OHS Regulation Section [14.49](#)

Project: Address:

Employer: Supervisor:

Date: Time: Shift:

Number in crew: Number attending:

Other safety concerns or suggestions:

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Record of those attending:

| Name: (please print) | Signature: | Company: |
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Manager's remarks:

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Manager: Supervisor:

(Signature)

(Signature)

For more information on health and safety requirements for crane operations in B.C., refer to the *Workers Compensation Act* and the OHS Regulation at worksafebc.com.