

Defensive Driving for Mobile Cranes and Boom Trucks

Defensive driving means staying aware of your surroundings, maintaining a safe distance from other vehicles, and being prepared to respond to potential hazards. Mobile crane and boom truck drivers need to be especially attentive to ensure road and worksite safety.

Identifying Risk Factors

Factors that impact safe driving for crane operators include:

- Your physical, mental, and emotional state which can significantly affect your ability to drive safely.
- Weather and road surface conditions including fog, rain, snow, and ice.
- The condition of the vehicle. Regular inspection and maintenance help prevent mechanical failures.
- The presence of other vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and animals sharing the road.

Managing Risk

Operators and employers can manage driving risks by:

- Conducting thorough pre-trip inspections focusing on tires, brakes, lights, and mirrors.
- Ensuring all loads are secure and within legal limits to prevent shifting.
- Adjusting for road and weather conditions by slowing down and increasing following distances in adverse weather.
- Avoiding driving if fatigued, distracted, or impaired, including impaired by medications.
- Communicating with other road users. Use signalling and maintain visibility with your lights on especially in low visibility conditions.



Defensive Driving Techniques

- **Maintain Space Cushions**
Follow the “two-second rule” to allow enough time to react if the vehicle in front of you suddenly stops.
- **Avoid Distractions**
Do not use hands-free mobile phones or other devices while driving.
- **Anticipate Hazards**
Scan the road ahead and be ready to react to any sudden movements or unexpected road conditions.
- **Control Speed**
Adjust speed according to road conditions, load weight and vehicle type.
- **Be Aware of Blind Spots**
Use mirrors correctly and adjust them to minimize blind spots. Always check blind spots before turning or changing lanes.
- **Stay Alert**
Evaluate your mental and physical readiness before driving.

References: OHSR Part 3, Sections [3.10](#), [3.12](#), OHSR Part 4, Section [4.10](#), and WCA Division 4, [Section 21](#)

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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15.			

Manager's remarks:

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Manager: Supervisor:

(Signature)

(Signature)

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