

New England Crane School



The Northeast's premier source for crane-related training and certification programs



Fall 2021

Tree services beware: OSHA announces Regional Emphasis Program aimed at New England tree and landscaping companies

By Anna DeBattiste

On August 4, OSHA Region 1 announced a Regional Emphasis Program (REP), a compliance directive targeting tree care and landscape employers. This is the first such REP in New England. It will remain in effect for five years, until August 4, 2026. This REP provides guidance to OSHA's field enforcement staff on violations they should look for in order to reduce the number of fatalities, injuries, and serious safety and health hazards relating to tree trimming, tree removal, and landscaping service industries, including the use of heavy equipment (cranes, loaders and chippers), elevated work platforms (bucket trucks and aerial lifts), tree climbing equipment, and tree trimming equipment. If you are a tree company, you can — and should! — read the full document [here](#).



"There he is. The ringer."

What does this mean for tree services? It means OSHA is looking to schedule tree company inspections throughout New England and the likelihood that you will be inspected in the near future is significantly higher than in the past. It also means that OSHA compliance officers driving around during their normal workday will be keeping their eyes open for tree companies on job sites — especially with booms in the air-- and will request to schedule impromptu inspections whenever they see something they find concerning.

What are the key takeaways for New England tree service companies related to crane use?

- Remember that if you are doing tree work only, and you never do any construction-related work, you are exempt from OSHA's requirement for your crane operators to have a nationally accredited cert. But if you are doing construction-related work, including just taking down a tree on a construction site, your operator(s) must be certified.
- If you are hoisting personnel, which is allowed by ANSI, remember that it is allowed only in the case that other methods are more dangerous. If you argue that hoisting personnel with the crane was the safest option available, the compliance officer will ask you to produce documentation supporting your claim. You'd better be ready to do that.
- Other crane-related items compliance officers will be looking for include whether the operator is qualified to operate the equipment (in the case that certification is not required), the cranes have a periodic inspection (written documentation required), load charts are available, weight charts or other method to determine the weight of materials being lifted are available, power line proximity regulations are followed, and ground conditions are capable of supporting the crane and the load where it is set up.

If you need further guidance please don't hesitate to reach out to us.



In August of 2021, NECS was honored to train new operators at Kimberly-Clark's operation in New Milford, CT. Although Kimberly-Clark falls under OSHA's general industry standard rather than the Cranes and Derricks in Construction standard and therefore is not required to certify their operators, the company's leadership understands the value of comprehensive training by a third party.

New England Crane School 2021/2022 Season Schedule

September 20 – 24, 2021

NCCER entry-level cert class, Portland, ME
This class is meant for rookies or people who need more classroom prep time. We can also modify it for experienced operators who still need to get certified.

October 4 – 8, 2021

NCCCO operator cert class, Shawmut Equipment, South Easton, MA

October 20 – 21, 2021

NCCER recert class, Concord, NH
This class is for expiring CIC or NCCER certs, or for experienced operators who want a fast-track option and are willing to study on their own prior to class.

October 26, 2021

Qualified Signal Person and Basic Rigging, Burlington, VT

January 18 – 19, 2022

NCCER recert class, Burlington, VT
This class is for expiring CIC or NCCER certs, or for experienced operators who want a fast-track option and are willing to study on their own prior to class.

January 25, 2022

Qualified Signal Person and Basic Rigging, Dover, NH

January 26 - 27, 2022

NCCER recert class, Dover, NH
This class is for expiring CIC or NCCER certs, or for experienced operators who want a fast-track option and are willing to study on their own prior to class.

February 7 – 11, 2022

NCCER entry-level operator cert class, Concord, NH
This class is meant for rookies or people who need more classroom prep time. We can also modify it for experienced operators who still need to get certified.

February 15, 2022

Qualified Signal Person and Basic Rigging, Portland, ME

February 16 - 17, 2022

NCCER recert class, Portland, ME
This class is for expiring CIC or NCCER certs, or for experienced operators who want a fast-track option and are willing to study on their own prior to class.

February 22, 2022

Qualified Signal Person and Basic Rigging, Montpelier, VT

March 14 - 18, 2022

NCCER entry-level operator cert class, Montpelier, VT
This class is meant for rookies or people who need more classroom prep time. We can also modify it for experienced operators who still need to get certified.

March 22 – 23, 2022

Lift director qualification course, Concord, NH

April 4 - 8, 2022

NCCER entry-level operator cert class, Portland, ME
This class is meant for rookies or people who need more classroom prep time. We can also modify it for experienced operators who still need to get certified.

TBD, April or May 2022

NCCCO operator cert class, Shawmut Equipment, South Easton, MA

For more information or to register
Call Anna at [303-817-5663](tel:303-817-5663),
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