



Common Signs That Your Crane or Hoist System Needs Repair

Here's a collection of some of the most common signs that your crane or hoist system needs repair work or additional maintenance. Don't forget to review your entire checklist but keep a regular watch for these issues, as well.

Corrosion

Corrosion is one of the problems that can creep up on you, and before you know it, it demands serious attention. Many times it can go ignored because rust starts in small areas and doesn't appear to affect how well the equipment performs.

But, even small signs of rust may be a sign of many more corrosion problems you can't see. This is particularly true if you live in a wetter climate, or more coastal area. The result? Electrical shorts, compromised lifting systems, loss of mechanical strength, and cranes or hoist systems that are in danger of dropping their loads due to compromised integrity.

Don't allow yourself or your team to ignore rust; treat it as a sign that more inspection is necessary or a component needs to be replaced.

Crushed Chain Links

Crushed links are another common problem when working with chain-based hoist systems or similar components. If you carry a lot of heavy loads during a project, it's easy for chains to become crushed or broken without anyone realizing it.

Make frequent chain inspection and maintenance a regular practice in these situations. Never be complacent on this point; remind employees that a crushed chain is very different from a completely broken chain link and may be more difficult to spot, especially from a distance.

Bent or Cracked Hooks

Bent hooks are another frequent repair issue.

A hook is designed to hold load weight in a particular and precise direction; otherwise, it's a comparatively delicate component. Misapplied weight can bend the hook, which compromises its internal integrity and may increase the chances of it breaking off in the future.

Hooks should be inspected regularly to ensure they have not been subtly damaged. While looking for the bends, workers should keep an eye out for telltale cracks, too.

Pad Wear

Stabilizer, outrigger, and slider pads are all fairly common when facilities include cranes or hoists. Those pads are all intended to do one thing: take the brunt of the force and make machine movements smoother.

Pads wear out a lot quicker than most components. Examine pads for shining and wear that suggest you need to replace them, and listen for key changes in machine noise that indicate a pad is starting to give out or at least needs to be looked at.

Dry Ropes and Slings

Temperature change and constant work/play havoc with the more flexible parts of your machinery, especially the ropes and slings. Ideally, you should have a regular maintenance schedule that involves frequent oiling of these parts in order to preserve them.

Sadly, not everyone does this, which results in dry, brittle fiber that stretches and cracks well ahead of its time. If your rope or sling fibers are looking ragged, it's probably time to buy new slings or resuscitate your old ropes as soon as possible.

Long-Term Abrasion

Abrasion can also sneak up on work crews, since it happens slowly, although the results will be dramatic, costly and dangerous when a component breaks. Check your wire, joints, and all moving parts for the tell-tale, shiny surfaces that signify abrasion — and make sure you check those areas regularly.



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