

# Camera Cranes on Vehicles

## ACTSAFE SAFETY BULLETIN #8A

This bulletin provides guidelines for working safely on or around vehicles equipped with camera cranes. A *camera crane vehicle* is a self-propelled vehicle, other than a traditional camera car, that is used to mount and operate cameras and other equipment to film from a moving or stationary position.

The main hazard with a camera crane vehicle is the crane itself. It can extend as far as several metres from a vehicle in any direction and can be a hazard to performers and crew. In addition to the usual risks of working on vehicles, performers or crew may be at risk of being struck by the crane. There can also be risks of the crane striking equipment or other objects, or the crane coming into contact with energized power lines.

The guidelines in this bulletin apply to specialized tracking vehicles with camera cranes. All camera crane vehicles are also subject to the guidelines described in [Safety Bulletin #8 — Guidelines for Traditional Camera Cars and Process Trailers](#).

A copy of this bulletin should be kept with the camera crane vehicle at all times. Camera crane vehicles often work near power lines. For more information, see [Safety Bulletin #25A — Power Line Distance Requirements](#).

## CONTROL MEASURES

- The driver and crane operators must be present any time the camera crane vehicle or the crane is used.
- The driver and crane operators have the final authority to make any determinations or adjustments that may affect the safe operation of the vehicle or crane.
- During operation, camera operators must wear an approved safety harness or restraint at all times. Workers in camera crane vehicles must also wear appropriate safety restraints, as required.
- Identify any overhead power or utility lines, and maintain the required safe limits of approach, which are described in [Safety Bulletin #25A](#).
- Don't approach a camera crane vehicle unless the driver or crane operator gives permission. The driver or crane operator will inform the 1<sup>st</sup> AD when it is safe to approach. Only the camera crew or grips should be close to the vehicle.
- The camera crane vehicle must never exceed the safe operating speed specified by the manufacturer or a speed that may endanger the safe operation of the vehicle or crane, as determined by the driver and crane operators.
- Rehearse shots under controlled conditions.
- For stability, always maintain the balance of the camera crane. Camera crew must only mount and dismount (or enter and exit) the vehicle when the crane operator gives permission.
- Use vehicle wheel chocks to prevent crane movement.
- Lock crane brakes for added temporary security.
- The maximum payload on a crane nose should never be more than what can be balanced by the counterweight system supplied with the crane.
- For extension configurations, check with the manufacturer or qualified operator for allowable load.

### Inspections

A qualified and experienced driver or crane operator must check the camera crane vehicle and crane prior to use and, depending on the vehicle and the manufacturers' recommendations, after use as well. If an item doesn't pass the required inspection, it must be repaired by a qualified person before being used.

### Safety meetings

The 1<sup>st</sup> AD, stunt coordinator, and drivers should hold shot-specific vehicle safety talks. Anyone who will be on or around the camera crane vehicle should attend these meetings.

Discuss and establish communication channels and protocols during the safety talk.

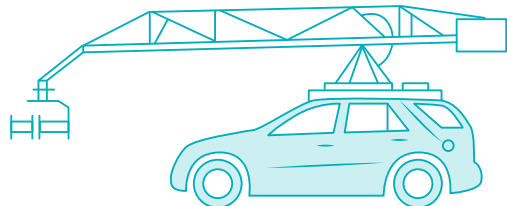
Discuss the shot sequence and route, including any stunt action, crew positioning, and protocols for aborting the sequence.



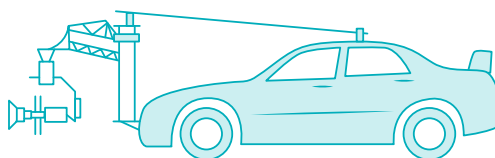
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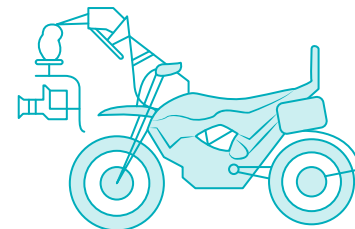
actsafe   
Safety Association



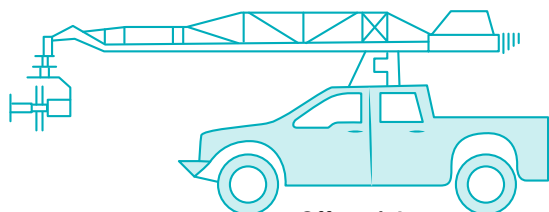
Ultimate Arm



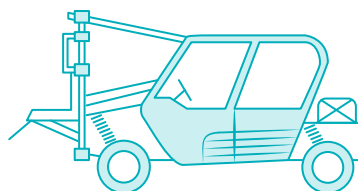
Subaru



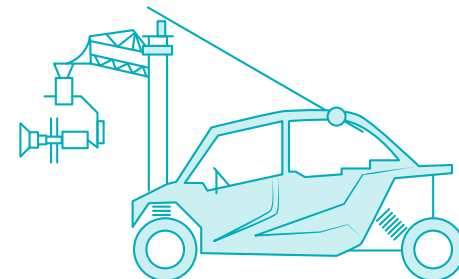
Motocam



Offroad Arm



Teryx



Warthog RZR

## RELATED RESOURCES

- [Guidelines for Traditional Camera Cars and Process Trailers](#) (safety bulletin)
- [Power Line Distance Requirements](#) (safety bulletin)
- [Stunts](#) (safety bulletin)

## REGULATORY REFERENCES

- [Section 4.3, Safe Machinery and Equipment](#)
- [Section 4.5, Manuals and Information](#)
- [Section 4.7, Information on Rated Capacity](#)
- [Section 4.8, Rated Capacity](#)

### Actsafe Safety Association

Actsafe ([www.actsafe.ca](http://www.actsafe.ca)) is a not-for-profit health and safety association supporting British Columbia's arts and entertainment industries. Actsafe provides resources and training to employers, workers, and supervisors. We are always here to provide information relevant to best practices around health and safety in the arts and entertainment industries in B.C.

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