

Imperial Crane recently celebrated its 40th anniversary and 40 years of risk management excellence.

Kevin Cunningham reports

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High standards

In 1969, Imperial Crane was established by John Bohne, Sr. using a single 25-ton truck crane. Since then, this family-owned business has grown to be the largest locally-owned crane service in the Midwest. This business accomplishment is attributed to the standard operating procedure of a promise to the "Commitment to Excellence" as the most integral component in Imperial's daily

operations, which consists of the highest standards in safety, service, and quality.

Imperial's success goes well beyond growth in market share, as proven by the tremendous risk management results achieved since Bohne personally operated the 25-ton truck crane 40 years ago. Risk management excellence is particularly noteworthy when considering the company caters to heavy industrial accounts such as oil refineries and chemical plants while also servicing the busy daily construction market and any 24-hour emergency needs of the Chicagoland conventional taxi service crane market.

High profile projects

Imperial Crane's achievement in risk management excellence is attributed to the overall team attitude portrayed by management, labor, and ownership, that consistently bring risk management excellence to the table when working on any project, regardless if it is a high profile, high-risk project like Trump Tower, a CITGO petroleum plant, a BP Products North America facility, or a common daily taxi rental service in the tough Chicago marketplace.

Besides an enormous fleet of cranes and man-lifts, Imperial proudly has completed thousands of projects over the past 40 years by consistently delivering to their clients the highest level of safety and service, ultimately resulting in timely completions with little or no accidents to speak of.

Mike Leamanczyk, chief underwriting officer of NationsBuilders Insurance Company (wholly-owned reinsurance company subsidiary of NBIS) states, "The Imperial Crane Services commitment to risk management excellence is truly an amazing accomplishment. We have underwritten literally thousands of crane accounts since 1996 and rarely do we see this type of favorable loss experience, particularly with the scope of Imperial projects that include refineries as well as



Imperial Crane Services worked on the Trump Tower project in Chicago. The company used its 300-ton hydraulic truck crane, a Liebherr LTM 1250, to erect a massive tower crane exceeding 1,000 feet in height. Crews worked in very tight traffic conditions along the Chicago River in the heart of downtown Chicago

tough City of Chicago projects."

Over the years, Imperial has received scores of safety awards which have been achieved in part by the fully staffed safety department and the in-house maintenance and parts department which further ensures that all Imperial equipment and manpower exceed the standard codes to perform safe procedures.

Two recent high profile projects are indicative of Imperial's commitment to the achievement of risk management excellence.



Imperial Crane has worked on high profile projects throughout the Midwest

Trump Tower Chicago

Rising 92 stories above Chicago, the Trump Tower features residential and hotel condominiums, office space and a shopping promenade. According to Imperial Vice President Bill Tierney, "It was only fitting that the highest profile job in Chicago has the highest profile contractor and crane company involved to complete the project on time with no accidents."

This project involved the use of Imperial's 300-ton hydraulic truck crane (Liebherr LTM 1250) to erect a massive tower crane exceeding 1,000 feet in height while working in very tight traffic conditions along the Chicago River in the heart of downtown Chicago.

ESPN Towers

The ESPN Towers project involved a complex dismantlement of three existing towers that were outdated to be replaced by three new towers with short timeframes under a critical lift installation services award to Imperial because of their "heavy lift specialist" reputation in the Midwest. The erecting of ESPN Towers required a 360-ton hydraulic truck crane while working with very tight deadlines, so as not to disturb the ESPN programming.

Celebrating excellence

The famous philosopher Aristotle once said: "Excellence is an art, won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

At its 40th anniversary open house on September 11, 2009 in Chicago, Imperial Crane Service employees, staff, customers and special industry guests celebrated the company's heritage and risk management excellence.

At the event, NBIS presented the company with its Risk Management Excellence Award.

In presenting the award NBIS representatives noted that: "Considering the facts that Imperial Cranes founder John Bohne, Sr. was instrumental in the establishment of the SC&RA Member Insurance & Risk Management Program in 1996 after serving for 10 years as the SC&RA Insurance Committee chairman, and the Imperial Crane Service organization has made the habit of completing crane projects with very significant risk characteristics, resulting in little or no claim activity over the past 40 years, NBIS, as the SC&RA Insurance & Risk Management Program Underwriters, are very proud to award Imperial Crane with the Risk Management Excellence Award."

Imperial engineered the project from start to finish, completing the project under the deadline with no recordable injuries or accidents.

Even though these are only two illustrations of Imperial Cranes' commitment to excellence in risk management, this long-standing SC&RA member has made a habit of attracting very difficult, high-hazard projects, and has completed these tough jobs

consistently over the past 40 years, on time with little or no material accidents.

According to the BJ Bohne, president of Imperial Crane, "My father had a habit of investing millions of dollars back into our fleet every year – which we will continue to do as we see the future as a set of new challenges, which we will aggressively meet to continually outperform the competition by working safer and smarter with better equipment." **act**

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