



Injury Risk Eliminated With Gorbels® Free Standing Work Station Cranes

Industry:
Power and Electric

Product:
Testing of Lift Baskets

The Problem:
Manual lifting of up to 120 lb. basket over water test basin

The Solution:
Gorbels® Free Standing Work Station Cranes



One person can easily do now what it took two or three people to do previously

For an electrical utility company, looking out for employee safety is a high priority. It's that concern for safety that drives them to test the insulation inserts for cherry picker truck baskets to be sure that any line workers who are repairing power lines above the ground are protected from potential electrical shock. While the testing process is thorough and effective, it was creating an injury problem for employees who's feet never leave the ground.

The insulation layer of the basket measures as tall as 42", as wide as 60" and can weigh as much as 120 pounds. The baskets are brought into a testing room by cart, then lifted into a water basin where a high voltage electrical current is run through to ensure that the basket resists the charge, thus protecting any workers within the basket.

"We were asking our workers to lift the basket, walk up a few steps, and then hoist the basket into the water basin," said the testing room supervisor. "Everything was by hand, but not for long. The average age of the worker in here is 55, and this was getting to be too burdensome."

After one of the operators suffered a hernia injury pulling the basket over the edge of the basin, a quick change was called for. “We take these matters very seriously,” the supervisor said. “One injury is far too many.”



In searching for a lifting solution over the water basin, the company looked to improve ergonomics through the entire testing area. Ideally, they sought a solution that meant all electrical components that were often lifted manually or with a lift cart would be covered by the same lifting solution. The space was far too small for a forklift, and a basic chain fall was ruled out due to the danger of a dangling chain near the high voltage tank.

The company selected a Gorbelt 500 pound capacity work station crane to cover the entire work area. However, in order to service the entire work space, the system was installed as two perpendicular systems that shared common support columns.

“What we faced was that in order to clear an overhead door on one side, we were limited for our overall height. On that side, the floor to trolley clevis distance is about 8 feet 6 inches,” said the dealer salesperson. “However, if it was that low throughout the workspace, we couldn’t get the lift required to get the baskets out of the tub. So at that end of the room, on the perpendicular system, the floor to trolley clevis height is 10 feet 2 inches.”

In more than a year since it’s installation, the Gorbelt crane has been a great success. “It’s so easy to use,” said the supervisor. “One person can easily do now what it took two or three people to do previously.”

Not only does the lifting require fewer resources, but the company’s primary goal of eliminating the injury risk has been achieved, and the workers were happy to adapt to the change. “Everyone who uses the crane absolutely loves it. They wish they could take it home to use in their garage.”