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Flintco to host Signal Person Certification Exam

Offering the first ever certification exam in the nation

OKLAHOMA CITY – Flintco, Inc., one of the largest commercial contractors in the nation, announced today it will be hosting the United State’s first Signal Person Certification Examination on Saturday, Nov. 15 at their Oklahoma City office. A signal person, while on the ground, is responsible for directing crane operators to safely move a load from one place to another. The certification is not mandated in Oklahoma but legislation is currently being discussed.

In light of the increase in crane-related accidents, Flintco is finding value in training its employees who work with crane operators. This year, the United States has seen a significant increase in crane-related accidents and fatalities than in previous years. So far in 2008, 355 crane-related accidents have occurred resulting in 180 fatalities, according to CraneAccidents.com.

Compare the numbers to those of 1999, where there were 110 crane accidents and 51 fatalities. To avoid becoming part of these increasing statistics and to continue their standard of safety excellence, 12 Flintco employees who serve as signal persons have recently completed a training program and are ready to take the exam.

“There is an obvious need for updated rules and regulations in the construction industry to help decrease the number of crane-related accidents,” said Mark Grimes, Flintco, Inc. Oklahoma City Division President. “We’re certain that the certification of our employees who work with crane operators will make Flintco jobsites a safer place for workers and those close to construction sites.”

The two part examination begins with a 45-minute written portion that tests hand signals, voice communication, basic knowledge of crane operations, situational awareness, and safety standards and regulations. The second portion consists of a 20 scenario video-based practical exam where the test taker acts as a signal person giving the appropriate hand and voice commands to the corresponding video.

“I’m proud to be a part of a company that had the foresight to implement such training and host an exam – Flintco understands the benefits of providing ongoing training and certification and that it is the right thing to do for the safety of our employees,” said Shawn Cosby, an operator trainer with Flintco. “A program like this naturally falls in line with our outstanding safety record.”

The certification exam will be administered by the International Assessment Institute, a third-party provider of testing services for the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators.

About Flintco

The Flintco Companies, Inc. is the parent company of two construction operating divisions: Flintco, Inc. and Oakridge Builders, Inc. Founded in 1908 and in its third generation of private ownership, The Flintco Companies is the largest American Indian-owned construction company and is one of the largest commercial contractors in the nation. The Flintco Companies’ operating divisions provide a full range of construction services, including preconstruction, construction management, design-build, project and program management, as well as general contracting from nine offices in: Albuquerque, N.M.; Austin, Tex.; Memphis, Tenn.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Sacramento, Calif.; Springdale, Ark.; Springfield, Mo.; and two offices in Tulsa, Okla. With a well-deserved reputation as a provider of “constructive solutions,” The Flintco Companies is consistently selected as the contractor of choice by clients with construction needs in the areas of healthcare, corporate, education, office, sports, corrections, hospitality, utilities, governmental, and not-for-profit facilities. For more information, see www.flintco.com.

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