

A Science Service Feature

Released on receipt  
but intended for use  
January 28, 1928

! WHY THE WEATHER !

Mailed January 21, 1928

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SAVING MACHINERY FROM WIND

The cooperative organization known as the Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies in a recent pamphlet on the subject of windstorm damage calls attention to the danger of operating certain kinds of material-handling machinery in windy weather. We read:

"Many material-handling structures, particularly overhead traveling cranes and large gantries or traveling bridges, have been wrecked by wind. These equipments are costly and their loss may seriously cripple plant operations. They require adequate braking and anchoring, which may be accomplished manually or automatically or both, depending upon the wind hazard and the value and importance of the crane. Operation of large valuable equipments, such as large gantries or traveling bridges, should not be attempted during strong winds or upon the approach of a storm. All anchoring devices should be applied at such times."

In this connection it may be mentioned that two or three American manufacturers now offer "alarm" anemometers of different types, which flash a light or ring a bell when the wind reaches a certain strength. There are also devices, including one known as the "anemometer limit switch," which automatically cut off the power and set brakes or clamps so as to prevent the operation of material-handling structures when the force of the wind reaches the danger point.

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