



# the OUTRIGGER

R. Baker & Son Magazine

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)

September 2011

## R. BAKER & SON Rigs Fire Truck at 9/11 Memorial Ceremony

Recently, R. Baker & Son took part in a solemn ceremony at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum honoring the 12 firefighters from Ladder Company 3 who lost their lives in the World Trade Center attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Working closely with the 9/11 Memorial and the NYC Fire Department, R. Baker & Son was tasked with rigging Ladder 3's battered fire truck into the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

The challenge was in figuring out how to lower the 58,000 lb. fire truck vertically through a narrow opening into the museum 70 feet below ground, then returning it to its horizontal position using only one crane. The solution: a RAFT, or Rigging Apparatus for Fire Trucks, custom-designed by the R. Baker & Son team.

Step one in the process entailed securing the fire truck to the RAFT frame at the hangar where it was stored. Escorted by Ladder Company 3, the RAFT assembly was transported to Ground Zero. A 350-ton capacity Liebherr LR 1350 was used to offload the assembly, and, utilizing a set of tailing axles incorporated into the RAFT design, the fire truck was turned to a vertical position.

As Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano, firefighters, family and friends looked on, the shrouded, flag-draped fire truck was carefully maneuvered down into the exhibition space. Once again using the RAFT's tailing axles, the truck was moved back into a horizontal position, and a Versalift 2535 was used to move it to a temporary exhibition area.

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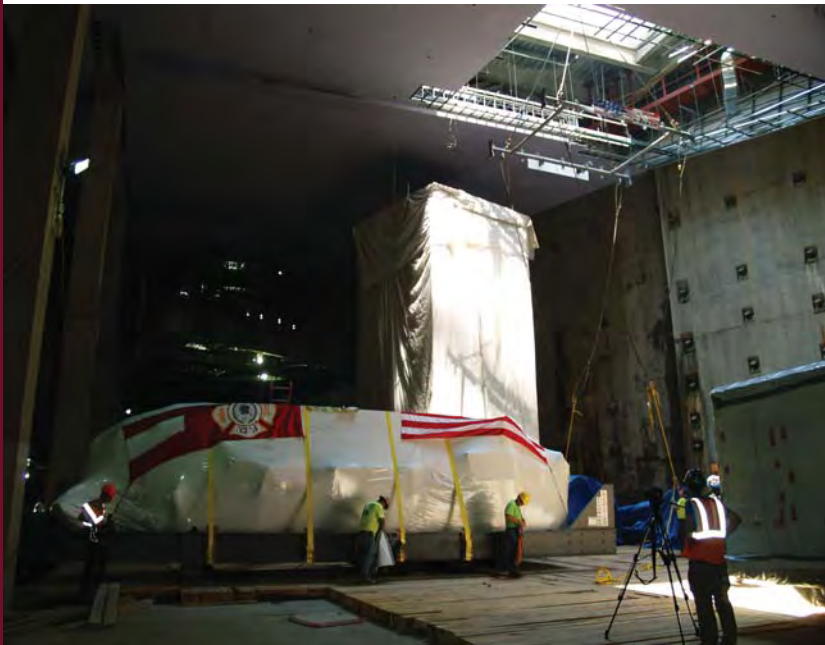
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# 9/11 Memorial & Museum Photo Gallery

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R. Baker & Son also rigged several other artifacts into the museum, including Engine 21 and the iconic World Trade Center Cross. This cross-shaped section of steel beams was discovered in the rubble and erected at Ground Zero, where it stood for several years as a symbol of solace. In 2006, the cross was temporarily moved to nearby St. Peter's Church. The R. Baker & Son team had the honor of transporting the cross from St. Peter's to the 9/11 Museum after a ceremony attended by former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and recovery workers.



## SDVOSB Status Helps Clients Meet Goals

In 2004, the US government established Executive Order 13360, which called for an increase in federal contracting opportunities for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB). An annual contracting goal 3% was set for all government agencies, and many private sector businesses have adopted similar or better SDVOSB objectives as part of their diversity programs.

Walter Baker, co-founder of R. Baker & Son, is a proud service-disabled veteran of the U.S. Navy. As an SDVO firm, we have always been strongly committed to supporting veterans and their families through job opportunities and charitable causes, and our SDVOSB status offers numerous advantages to clients as well. Besides the obvious benefit to customers who wish to honor service veterans, federal buyers are allowed sole-source opportunities of up to \$5 million per contract. Contract bids that include SDVOSB involvement usually receive preference, increasing likelihood of job awards. And doing business with R. Baker & Son can help both private firms and governmental agencies achieve diversity program goals.

If you are interested in finding out about doing business with R. Baker & Son to meet SDVOSB and diversity program objectives, please call us at 732-222-3553.



## Hearing Loss Prevention

Each year, 30 million people in the U.S. are exposed to hazardous noise in the workplace, and about 20,000 of them suffer permanent hearing loss. Fortunately, hearing loss can be prevented with administrative and engineering controls and use of hearing protection devices (HPDs).

Hearing loss due to prolonged exposure to excessive noise is cumulative and irreversible. Contrary to popular belief, neither surgery nor a hearing aid can correct this type of damage. In addition to effecting one's quality of life, hearing loss and high noise levels have been associated with stress, irritability, loss of concentration, decreased productivity, and inability to hear warning signals, all of which contribute to increased workplace accidents and injuries.

OSHA requires HPDs when workers are exposed to noise levels above a time-weighted average (TWA) of 90 dB over an 8-hour day. At 100 dB, unprotected exposure of more than 15 minutes can cause hearing damage, and at levels above 110 dB, repeated exposure of one minute significantly increases your risk of permanent hearing loss. Heavy construction equipment produces about 120 dB.

There are many ways to prevent hearing loss in the workplace, such as using low-noise equipment, noise barriers, limiting exposure time, and strict use of HPDs. Types include earplugs, earmuffs, canal caps, semi-aural bands, and devices that electronically block out noise. HPDs must carry a noise reduction rating (NRR) sufficient for workplace dB levels, and should be worn for the duration of exposure.