

Heavy Equipment

Heavy equipment has been designed to handle very large volumes or large loads. As such, heavy equipment is powerful machines and can be dangerous to all around them if not operated correctly. It is important to remember the proper methods used to move them from one site to another, and how to work around them properly.

Guide for Discussion

General Rules When Heavy Equipment is Nearby

- Always remain alert to the equipment moving around you.
- Do not get near moving equipment unless necessary.
- Never ride on equipment unless it has been designed to carry you.
- This means it must have a seat and a seat belt.
- Do not walk along beside equipment.
- If it is necessary to travel with a piece of equipment, walk in front or behind it.
- Try to stay in view of the operator.
- You must remain in view of the operator when working around excavation or trenching if you are the “top man.”

Rules For Transporting Heavy Equipment

- Inspect all transporting equipment and make sure it is all in good working condition.
- Always provide for the protection of the general public.
- Wear safety shoes.
- Estimate the center of gravity for the equipment to be loaded.
- Always load equipment slowly onto its carrier.
- If equipment is to be driven off-site, make sure the steering, braking and light systems are in good operating condition.
- Tightly secure the piece of equipment to its carrier.
- Be sure that the boom or any other extensions of the equipment are tightly secured.
- If working with others, be sure to work as a team.
- Keep your hands dry and free of grease and oil as possible.
- Always keep the loading area free of debris and unnecessary tools.

Additional Discussion Notes:

What the company does to further protect the general public? For example, flag man, barricade the work area.

Be sure all equipment operators have been properly trained.

Remember: A little mistake when dealing with heavy equipment can be magnified thousands of times and become a major mistake. This can easily result in a severe injury or even death.

Attendees:

NOTE: Always promote a discussion on any of the topics covered in the Tool Box Talks. Should any question arise that you cannot answer, don't hesitate to contact your Employer.