



Safety Brief Series

BE ALERT OF MOVING EQUIPMENT

Crew members should:

- Recognize and be alert to risks near moving vehicles, equipment, traffic and other workers within and adjacent to assigned work site.
- Maintain personal visibility, alertness and communication.
- Look and sound appropriate warnings prior to moving vehicles or equipment.

When construction equipment is rumbling around a project, you've got to watch your step. If both construction workers and equipment operators keep their eyes open, no one's going to get hurt.



The following are ways to help you maintain a healthy respect for cranes, dozers, excavators and trucks:

- Never take for granted that equipment operators see you.
- Never depend upon hearing a horn or other warning signals; it might sometimes be lost in the general noise around a project.
- Equipment shouldn't be backed without someone to check the blind spots and give signals; nevertheless, keep in the clear whenever equipment is traveling backwards, as that's when most equipment accidents happen.
- Swinging counterweights often create a dangerous pinch-point. Don't ever get into a spot where you could get squeezed in between.
- Never hitch a ride on the running board, it's fatally easy to fall under moving equipment.
- No riding on top of loaded trucks; the load might shift, and you might not have enough over-head clearance in a tight spot.

- If you're riding in a transport vehicle to a job, or between jobs, keep your arms, legs and all parts of your body inside the unit.
- Never walk alongside equipment. Keep in the clear in case the unit suddenly turns your way, or slides, or the load shifts.
- Stay out from under loads on cranes or hoists. Use established walkways and beware of shortcuts.
- If the boom of a unit ever hits a power line, keep away from the frame of the unit and the load cables.
- Never lubricate, clean or work on a machine that's in operation. Stop the machine. If you have to remove a guard, replace it as soon as the work's done.
- Construction equipment is husky, heavy and extremely unheathly to tangle with. Always assume that the operator doesn't see you; doesn't even know you're around. Always figure that it's up to you to keep in the clear.

Action Item:

Please take your crew outside and have them walk around a piece of equipment (dump truck) with one person in the driver seat, engine off, keys in pocket. Driver and crew walking around equipment will soon find out the reality of a blind spot. For example, a rear blind spot on a dump truck averages approximately 100 feet. Rotate and allow others to sit in the driver's seat.

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Reference VOSHA/OSHA Standards 29CFR1910.135 and 1926.100 for more information. Standards are available at <http://www.osha.gov/laws-regs.html>

