



Heavy Equipment Safety

Heavy equipment has been designed to handle very large volumes or large loads. As such, heavy equipment such as loaders, dozers, or trackhoes are very powerful machines and can be dangerous to all around them if not operated correctly. It is important to remember the correct methods used to move them, and how to work around them safely.

The primary sources of injury to operators and other personnel working around heavy equipment are:

- Repairing and servicing equipment in dangerous positions.
- Striking individuals or other vehicles with the equipment, particularly its blade or counterweight.
- Unexpected violent tipping of the equipment.
- Uncontrolled traffic within or through the work area.
- Unexpected violent shocks or jars to the machine.
- Sudden movement of a power unit while it is being attached to earth moving equipment.
- Limbs of trees or overhead obstructions
- Leaving earth moving or other equipment in dangerous positions while unattended.
- Failure of lifting mechanisms.

General Operating Precautions:

- Machines should be maintained in good working order. All vital parts such as motors, chassis, blades, tracks, drives, hydraulic and pneumatic mechanisms, and transmissions should be thoroughly inspected each day.
- Before starting a job, the operator should be given instructions regarding the work to be done.
- Machines should be operated at speeds and in a manner consistent with conditions on the project.
- At no time, should a piece of equipment be left unattended while the motor is running, especially if the machine is on an inclined surface or on loose material.
- Personnel should stop engines and refrain from smoking during refueling operations.
- The operator should keep deck plates or steps on equipment free from grease, oil, ice and mud.
- Employees, other than operator, should not ride on equipment.
- Operators should not wear loose clothing, which can get caught in moving parts of equipment.
- Always remain alert to the equipment moving around you. Try to stay in view of the operator. If you cannot see their eyes, they cannot see you.

