



TOOLBOX TALKS

Safety is more than a slogan.



Toolbox Talk: Working around Heavy Equipment

Background

75% of construction related “struck by” and “run over” fatalities involve heavy equipment. The use of such equipment is essential on the majority of O&G projects.

The following apparatus are commonly used on O&G job sites:

- Tri-axle dump trucks
- Cranes
- Pay loaders
- Bull dozers
- Excavators
- Skid steers
- Graders
- Aerial lifts
- Scissor lifts
- Forklifts
- Pavers
- Milling machines

Who This Topic Applies To

Working in the presence of Heavy Equipment applies to all O&G employees, contractors and visitors. This can even apply to pedestrians traveling on the road. The hazards do not go away when the equipment leaves the project or facility.

Safety Tips

Safely working in the area of any heavy equipment requires the shared responsibility of both the equipment operator and their coworkers. As with all O&G ventures, each project must have a prepared and well-articulated safety plan. This preparation is both a written document and a shared dialogue with all O&G employees and subcontractors at the beginning of each project as well as each shift.

Consideration should be given to issues related to working around heavy equipment:

- Inspection of the equipment prior to operation to ensure that all lights and audible alarms are working properly.



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- A defined route and clear visual path for the operator when moving equipment from the point of origin to the work site.
- Set up of the equipment at the work area should be stable and have enough space to allow the equipment and workers to perform the planned tasks.
- Use 3 point mounting and dismounting technique off of heavy equipment - NEVER JUMP OFF HEAVY EQUIPMENT.
- Establish a danger zone, that is; the working area where contact could result in personal injury or damage during operations.
- Predefined hand signals or use of two way radios between the operator and person in charge of the work crew to accomplish any and all movement.
- Maintain a clear line of site between the operator and workers. Blind spots are common. If you can't see the operator, they can't see you.
- Use a spotter when heavy equipment is in motion. This requires communication between the operator and workers to maintain safe movement.
- Always try to walk on the driver side of equipment as the passenger side has a larger blind spot.
- Workers should keep a safe distance from all sides of the heavy equipment while it is in use.
- Be aware of the swing radius on certain equipment and, if possible, cordon off the area with barriers or caution tape.
- Wear high visibility clothing and Personal Protective Equipment
- Never work under a suspended or overhead load
- Always stay alert

Many times when workers think they can be seen by the operators of heavy equipment they can't. You may be in a blind spot or the operator has been driving in a designated travel path for a period of time and the only thing that has changed is you!!!! Make eye contact with operators

Other Topics Discussed:

What To Do If You Spot Safety Issues

Notify the operator immediately. Advise your coworkers and supervisor and help take corrective action.



If you have not been properly trained on this topic, do not have the proper safety equipment available for use or you are not comfortable with what you are being asked to do, **DO NOT PROCEED** until the expected safety standards have been met.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact O&G's Safety Department. You may also contact the O&G Safety Hotline anonymously by calling (860) 496-4866.



A red metal toolbox with a black handle and two silver latches.

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