

## Working around heavy equipment

### Introduction:

Many times today's jobsites have heavy equipment operating in the vicinity of workers. This can be dangerous for the operators and the workers on the ground. Discussing the hazards with all workers is important to have safe, productive jobsites.

### Hazards to watch for:

- Never use heavy equipment for moving or lifting workers.
- When operating heavy equipment, only workers necessary to perform the work should be near the equipment.
- Equipment "zone of danger" is a radius that defines the reach of the equipment in a mishap. Stay out of this "zone" until invited in.
- Equipment operators many times have to focus on their specific crew and work. Assume they don't see you.
- All equipment has blind spots!
- Don't count on back-up alarms. Jobsites are noisy and people tune out alarms. Use spotters as necessary.
- Operators should always walk around the equipment looking underneath before starting work.

### Safe procedures:

- All workers should have high visibility garments/vests on.

- Use lockout/tagout of the equipment anytime maintenance is being performed.
- Operators should always walk around the equipment looking underneath before starting work.
- Operators should always neutralize the equipment, lower any buckets or blades, set the brake and motion it's OK to approach.
- Always approach the equipment operator from outside the "zone of danger." Get their attention and signal the operator.
- Mark and fence worker travel areas that may cross the equipment travel pattern when possible.
- Plan material deliveries and placement that limits exposure to workers.

### In conclusion:

All workers exposed to heavy equipment need to be aware of the hazards and play a role in keeping all workers safe. Training and high visibility vests are important but performance by workers is crucial.

Let's discuss how heavy equipment operation pertains to our jobsites.

## Heavy Machine Safety Summary

Here are some important things to remember:

- **ALWAYS** approach the machine from the front, preferably at a 45° angle to the cab.
- **ALWAYS** make eye contact with the operator or pilot of the machine.
- In the case of a grooming machine: the operator will put the blade (plow) and tiller down on the snow, will turn the engine RPM's down to idle and will set the parking brake. This may take a few seconds.
- **WAIT** for the operator or pilot to wave you in.
- **NEVER** approach a running machine without the permission of the operator or pilot.
- **NEVER** park behind a machine (running or not).
- **NEVER** go under a winch cable.