

HEAVY EQUIPMENT

SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

Heavy equipment is just what it says it is: heavy.

These large and powerful machines can be dangerous to those that work around them as well as those who operate them. The first thing that we need to recognize is that the operator has a limited sight range and blind spots as well. Never assume that the operator can see you! All bi-directional earth moving equipment that has the rear view obstructed must have a backup alarm. This alarm is an audible device that emits a warning sound to let you know that the piece of equipment is backing up. Always observe this warning. Look up from what you are doing and make sure you are out of the way. It is often difficult to hear the backup alarm on noisy construction sites, so if you're working nearby, be cautious and extra alert for the sound of the alarm.

Other types of heavy equipment are equipped with a horn similar to the one that you have in your car. The operator may sound the horn to warn you or to get your attention to let you know that he is about to swing something around or over you. Keep a keen eye out for the movement of equipment, especially around pinch points. These areas should be barricaded off to limit access so no one gets crushed when a crane swings around.

If you are the operator of heavy equipment, always check the brakes, steering, backup alarm, headlights and other controls before starting. Don't forget to wear your personal protective equipment. Eye protection, safety boots, hard hat or hearing protection may be required by your employer. If it's required, be sure to wear it. If the heavy equipment you operate has a seat belt make sure you wear it.

Another area of concern is those who try to hitch a ride on a piece of equipment. This is absolutely forbidden. To do so will cause an accident should the rider fall off. A good rule to follow is no passengers allowed under any circumstances.

EQUIPMENT SAFETY

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1926.451(A)(1) 1926.451(F)(3) 1926.451(F)(4)

Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), (a)(5) and (g) of this section, each scaffold and scaffold component shall be capable of supporting, without failure, its own weight and at least 4 times the maximum intended load applied or transmitted to it. Scaffolds and scaffold components shall be inspected for visible defects by a competent person before each work shift, and after any occurrence which could affect a scaffold's structural integrity. Any part of a scaffold damaged or weakened such that its strength is less than that required by paragraph (a) of this section shall be immediately repaired or replaced, braced to meet those provisions, or removed from service until repaired.

These are the OSHA Regulations concerning the inspection, use and condition of scaffold equipment. Notice that an inspection must be made by a Competent Person at least at the beginning of each work shift to be certain that the equipment is in proper condition. Inspections must be maintained throughout the shift to ensure the scaffold(s) stay up to compliance. This Competent Person must be assigned to this duty. For example if there is 3 Competent Persons on a crew, the Superintendent (one of the CPs) must appoint which CP is going to do the pre-shift inspection rather than leaving it to chance that one of them will do it.

Again, this inspection is not just checking for safety rails, toeboards, ladders, etc., but for the condition of the equipment as well. If a component has been damaged by a vehicle hitting it, a crane bumping it with a load, something dropped on it from a higher level, or other abuse, it must be changed out immediately. The defective equipment must be marked and put aside so that it isn't used again on-site and kept separate so that it can be returned to the yard and repaired if possible. There have been many scaffold collapses and subsequent injuries and deaths due to defective scaffold components being used.

Please take extra care in ensuring we are working safe by a pre-shift inspection, periodic inspection during the shift, and each employee working from the scaffold also doing an inspection of the scaffold they are about to work off of.

AERIAL LIFT SAFETY

SAFETY TOOL BOX TALK

We use aerial lifts on almost every job, especially at the end of the job doing final loose ends. Lifts allow workers a safe work station that is easy to move while giving access to temporary and hard to reach locations.

Unfortunately, there are fatalities and serious injuries associated with the use of aerial lifts. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates 20 construction workers die each year while using this equipment. Major causes of accidents include:

- Not trained and certified
- Falls when lift suddenly jerks
- Tip-over due to boom collapse
- Tip-over due to steep slope, rough or unstable terrain
- Electrocution when contacting overhead power lines
- Crushed or caught between work platform/bucket edge and an object
- Falls while working outside of the rail

What are the basic rules for safety? Here are a few simple rules to make your use of aerial lifts safe:

- Insist upon being trained on the particular manufacturer and model prior to first use
- Read the manufacturer's manual before using for the first time
- Identify all manufacturer approved anchor points
- Refresh safety knowledge by rereading the manufacturer's manual quarterly ? rental equipment manuals change

What are the inspection requirements? OSHA and the equipment manufacturer require a pre-start inspection:

- Be sure you are familiar with the particular piece of equipment and its printed instructions
- Check all surfaces and ground conditions prior to starting
- Walk all paths you plan to travel and look for hazards; wires, other work in the area, etc.
- Check wheels and tires
- Check all operating and emergency controls; both ground and upper controls
- Check safety devices such as outrigger and guardrails
- Check your own personal fall arrest equipment and know where to anchor
- Immediately report any unsafe conditions. Don't use unsafe equipment!

AERIAL LIFT SAFETY INSPECTIONS

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Major causes of accidents include:

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- Falls when struck by vehicles or objects
- Falls when lift suddenly jerks
- Tip-over due to boom collapse
- Tip-over due to steep slope, rough or unstable terrain
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WHAT ARE THE INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS?

OSHA, ANSI and the equipment manufacturer all require that you perform a pre-start safety inspection:

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