

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Job Name _____ Date _____

EQUIPMENT OPERATORS AND BYSTANDERS

Heavy equipment is a vital element of the construction industry. These big, noisy, and powerful machines take on heavy-duty construction tasks such as lifting and lowering heavy loads, transporting materials, drilling, excavating, and demolishing. Because of their sheer size and power, heavy equipment can present hazards to operators as well as to bystanders working around them. Everyone should be aware of these hazards and learn how to work safely with heavy equipment.

Hundreds of construction workers are killed each year by mobile heavy equipment. A majority of the injuries and fatalities involve bystanders who are crushed to death or run over by equipment that backs into them. Workers on foot can also be crushed or struck by moving or falling loads. Hazards for equipment operators include getting crushed when equipment rolls or tips over, and getting run over when equipment is left in gear and brakes are not set.

Bystanders and equipment operators cross paths every day on a construction site. It takes the cooperation of all workers to make heavy equipment operations as safe as possible. Whether you're maneuvering the heavy equipment, or you're maneuvering around it, keep these safety tips in mind.

As a heavy equipment operator, you should:

- ✓ Operate the equipment safely and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- ✓ Know where your blind spots are.
- ✓ Look behind you and in your mirrors before you back up; do not rely on back-up alarms to clear the way.
- ✗ Never operate without a spotter if one is necessary to do the job safely.
- ✓ Set up barriers to separate bystanders from equipment.
- ✓ Always shut off the engine, set the brakes, and lock all controls before leaving equipment, even for a moment.
- ✗ Never speed; be mindful of other traffic, hills, obstacles, and curves.

As a bystander, you should:

- ✓ Make visual and/or verbal contact with the operator before you travel in front of or behind the equipment.
- ✓ Stay alert and maintain a safe distance from moving equipment at all times.
- ✗ Never assume that an operator knows where you're standing, even if you can see the cab and the operator.
- ✓ Listen for back-up alarms and always look up to see where the equipment is located and where it's headed.
- ✓ Stay clear of raised loads and never work under them.

When operating a motor vehicle, watch out for pedestrians and children as you back out of driveways and parking spaces. Check your blind spots when turning and changing lanes.

SAFETY REMINDER

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards® planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.