

Safety Guidelines for Large Equipment

Objective: to ensure crew members understand how to work safely in and around large equipment.

Training Materials: any piece or pieces of large machinery - backhoe, skid steer, forklift, trencher, tractor, manufacturer's models for each.

Personal Protective Equipment: work boots, hard hat, hearing protection.

Lesson: *The use of skid steers, tractors and backhoes save many hours of hard labour on the job site. But with these work horses come an increased risk of accidents and injuries. Safety must always be the number one priority when operating large equipment.*

Some general guidelines to keep in mind when operating any large piece of machinery:

1. Never use a piece of equipment unless you have been properly trained, have read the operator's manual, and are wearing the appropriate safety gear.
2. Perform a circle check of the vehicle before entering the cab to ensure all parts are in working order.
3. Ensure you are the only person on, in or around the machinery.
4. Stay seated inside the cab while operating the vehicle. Use a seatbelt if one is provided.
5. Don't get out of or off the equipment while it is moving.
6. Never let anyone ride on the forks or in the bucket of a loader.
7. Transport cargo with the load kept as low as possible. Tilt the mast back while transporting a load. Raise the loader only when ready to unload the cargo.
8. One quarter of forklift injuries occur when the operator is getting on or off the vehicle. Don't jump down, always keep one foot and two hands in contact with the equipment, and face the machine when climbing up and down.
9. Move slowly in the vehicle to avoid roll over or tipping on uneven ground. If working on a slope, avoid swinging the bucket to the downhill side to reduce the risk of tipping.
10. Only turn on the engine indoors if you are in a well-ventilated area.
11. After you park the vehicle, lower the backhoe, loader or other attachment to the ground, ensure it is shut off properly, the parking break is on and all levers are in the neutral position.

- *An equipment maintenance checklist is a good way to keep track of large equipment and ensure it stays in good working condition. Go over all the items on the checklist such as oil and fuel levels, hydraulics, grease and lubrication, radiator, safety attachments, tires, etc. Use the checklist daily before operating any equipment.*

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