



Safety Around Heavy Equipment

Identify

Heavy equipment (includes Powered mobile equipment, elevating work platform, lift trucks) can be a valuable tool on a construction site, but can also pose a risk to nearby employees, traffic, or pedestrians – especially if the operator can't see them.

This toolbox talk is designed to help employers ensure that all employees are safe on site when mobile equipment is being used.

Communicate and control

All guidelines can be referenced in the *General Regulation 91-191*. See *Part XV* for heavy equipment and *Part XIX* when working in the vicinity of overhead powerlines.

When a job calls for heavy equipment, **employers** must follow these safety measures to prevent risks or potential injuries:

Review safe work practices and procedures

- Ensure adequate supervision.
- Ensure that all employees receive proper training on how to either operate the equipment or work alongside one.
- Ensure all employees are aware of the potential site-specific hazards.
- Establish "safety zones" between the heavy equipment and employee/public.
- Ensure no one approaches the mobile equipment until it has stopped, and the operator has indicated that it is safe.
- Designate competent signalers when operators may not be able to clearly see behind the equipment.

Operators

- Perform a pre-operational inspection following manufacturers recommendations before beginning work.
- Ensure that your work area is clear of all employees, traffic, and hazards.
- Ensure you have locations for buried electrical lines, natural gas lines, and other utilities.
- When operating mobile equipment, do not carry a load higher than necessary – you'll limit your vision/capacity to observe your surroundings.
- Avoid using cell phones when operating mobile equipment.
- All heavy equipment shall be equipped with an audible back-up alarm.

Nearby employees

- Before work begins, ensure that you and your co-workers are aware of all heavy equipment/vehicles operating in and around the site.
- Wear high visibility PPE when working with or near traffic from heavy equipment and vehicles. Do not take shortcuts across areas where mobile equipment is working.
- Keep in eye contact with the operator when working near moving machinery or equipment.
- Remove all unnecessary distractions (cellphone, music, horseplay, etc.).

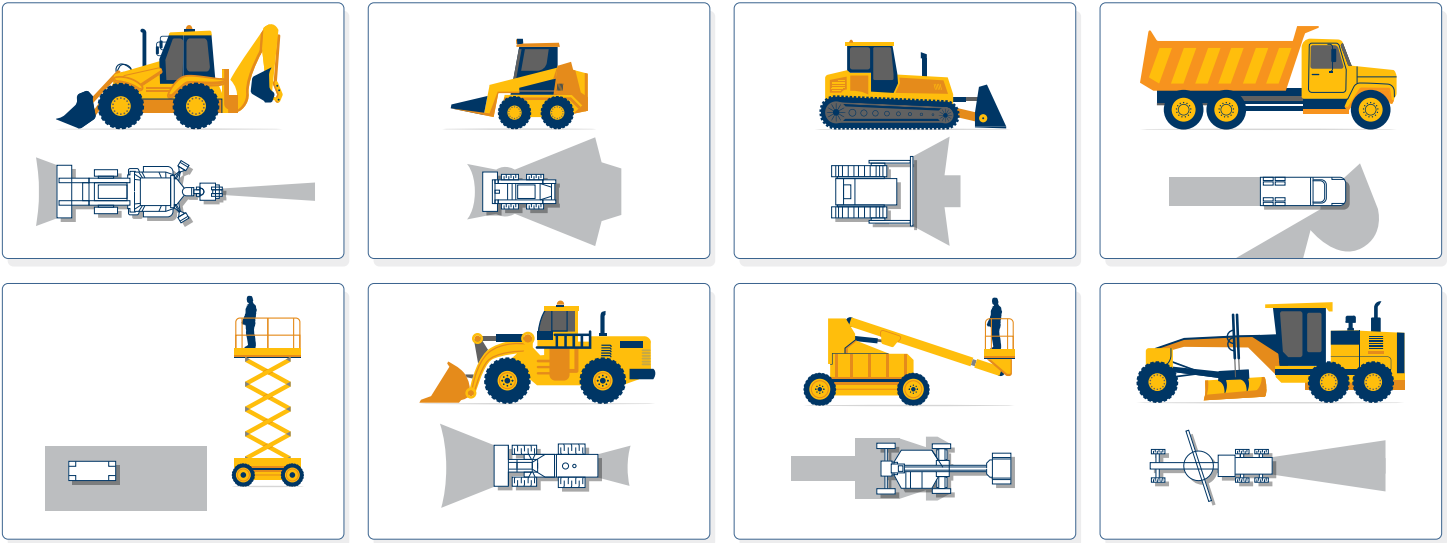
Blind spots

- Poor sight lines and visibility issues are a risk when working with mobile equipment.
- Be mindful of the dimensions of the piece of equipment and where the operator is positioned on the equipment.
- Operator shall only back up on signals of the employer's designated signaler when operator can't see clearly behind the equipment.

A collection of charts showing driver blind spots experienced on commonly-used construction vehicles may be found on the next page.



Common Blindspots – Construction Vehicles (grey)



Information Source: CSAO

The Quiz

1) When a job calls for mobile equipment, employers must:

- A. Establish “safety zones” between the equipment and workers/public
- B. Review safe work practices and procedures surrounding mobile equipment
- C. Ensure that all workers receive proper training on operating or working around mobile equipment
- D. All of the above

2) Operators have full visibility while operating a piece of mobile equipment:

TRUE FALSE

3) When a job calls for powered mobile equipment, operators must:

- A. Take shortcuts, whenever possible, to get the job done faster
- B. Use a cell phone to contact surrounding workers
- C. Leave the mobile equipment running at all times
- D. None of the above

4) Fill in the blanks:

Operators should do a _____ following manufacturers recommendations _____ beginning work and be equipped with an audible _____.

5) Powered mobile equipment can pose a risk to nearby employees, traffic, or pedestrians:

TRUE FALSE

6) Fill in the blanks:

Other employees should maintain _____ with the operator and be aware of _____ around powered mobile equipment.