



ToolBox Talks from SWPA

Working Around Heavy Equipment



Working around heavy equipment exposes you to pinch points, back-into, run-over, and back-over hazards. Important safety precautions when working near or around heavy equipment. These precautions help to keep you safe.

- ☞ Establish “the danger zone” around heavy equipment and isolate this area by providing a physical barrier or safety caution tape or other appropriate safety means.
- ☞ Mark the safe and clear path of entry and exit for a safe zone around the movement of heavy equipment. Do not use shortcuts to approach the desired location by entering through the danger zone.
- ☞ Identify the radius of rotation of the equipment’s bucket, loader or crane to barricade this area.
- ☞ Barricade the entire truck/trailer loading area to prevent movement around the truck under loading.
- ☞ Do not assume operators can see you, be careful when working/walking around heavy equipment.
- ☞ Make sure all lights and audible alarms of heavy equipment/vehicles are working properly.
- ☞ When loading do not allow the truck driver to stay outside the cab near the truck. Also, do not allow the driver to climb on top of the truck to check the level of loaded material.
- ☞ Never allow anyone under a suspended load or work under a suspended load or overhead load.
- ☞ Make sure availability of trained flag man or signal man for excavation, crane operation, loading and other similar work on the work area or for work near a public road to assist the operator. Preset hand signals or other suitable communication system such as a walkie-talkie should be provided for better communication.
- ☞ Workers should stay out of equipment blind spots and in an area where they can easily make visual contact with the operator before entering the bucket's/loader swing radius. Maintain a clear line of sight/communication between operator and workers.
- ☞ All persons working near heavy equipment should wear a high visible vest. If the work is performed at night, all persons should have a high visibility reflective vest. Wear all appropriate personal protective equipment including hard hat, safety shoes, safety glasses, etc.

Take time to talk about examples of near misses and what you can do to avoid these risks. Fatalities happen, let’s think safety!



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SWPA SAFETY COMMITTEE and Tidewater Equipment

Toolbox Talks are provided as a courtesy to SWPA members. Please remember they are to assist you in developing a safety plan. Keep in mind OSHA, Department of Labor and Insurance requirements may change over time and it is your responsibility to make sure your safety plan is up to date. Reference: OSHA, NIOSH, FRA, Safety Talk Ideas.com



