

Safety on The Worksite

The site of a construction project is a busy place and has many things going on at the same time. Workers are performing various tasks and vehicles and equipment are constantly on the move. Machinery is a necessary part of the job; it can also be the cause of many accidents and injuries. Machine operators do their best to keep from running into or over workers, but with all the activity and noise at the site, an operator may not see a worker in the line of danger. It is also the workers' responsibility to be aware of what's happening around them to avoid personal injury on the job.

Stay alert and out of the way of moving equipment to avoid injuries from vehicle turns, slides and load shifts. Workers should not depend on hearing a horn or back up alarm, because a construction site is not only busy, it's also noisy. Workers should not take chances by darting from behind a moving vehicle, risking a slip and falling under the machinery. No one should ever ride on any part of a moving vehicle, like the running boards, drawbars, loader buckets or on top of a load, except areas intended for transport.

The workers operating the moving equipment should be trained and competent. They should be prepared for the day by getting enough rest and taking occasional breaks during the day to reduce fatigue. If operators feel ill or take medication that may affect their level of alertness, machine operation should be avoided. Seat belts should be securely fastened before driving, including vehicles with roll over protection (ROPs). If there are no passenger seats, there should be no riders. Operators should check to see that everyone is at a safe distance from the vehicle or equipment before moving. Only workers with a driver's license should take equipment on public roads.

Everyone at the job site should be cautioned not to approach or get on any equipment that is under power. When backing a vehicle, operators should ask another worker to direct the backing from a safe and visible distance. When equipment is stopped, brakes should be set securely, using park/lock and keys removed to keep unauthorized persons from restarting the machinery. Operators should disengage the power take off, while keeping shields and guards in place, and turn off the engine and remove the key before unclogging, refueling or working on a power-driven machine. Workers need to keep in mind to stay safe, they should not get behind, or alongside of, moving vehicles and equipment. Staying alert is key in injury prevention