

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## Topic C096: Heavy Equipment

**Introduction:** When heavy equipment is in operation, construction job-sites are dangerous places. Noisy equipment, dust, earth vibrations, swinging buckets, booms, forks, back-up alarms, and heavy-duty truck traffic all add to the clamor. Dangerous does not have to mean unsafe. Ear plugs, proper ventilation, signaling, barricades, warning signs, alert workers, safety monitors, and well-marked right of ways all contribute to making a noisy, bustling job-site safe.

### Observe these General Operating Precautions:

- Obtain all proper work permits and notify the proper agencies prior to beginning work.
- Only those qualified by training or experience shall operate heavy equipment or machinery.
- Be familiar with the manufacturer's performance specifications and rated load capacities for the equipment you are using.
- Be sure the unit's maintenance requirements are current and perform the pre-operational inspection procedure.
- Make sure no grease, oil, or other litter is on the operator's deck or station before buckling your seat belt.
- Before putting the equipment to work, take a test drive and get a feel for its maneuvering characteristics.
- Get familiar with the unit's operating controls and instrumentation; these are different on each piece of equipment.
- When leaving the immediate work-zone, comply with the recognized travel ways and observe pedestrian right-of-ways.
- Watch out for overhead obstructions such as trees and power lines.
- Avoid operating the equipment close to excavations, on unstable ground, or in a position which may cause it to tip over.
- Never allow employees to work in a trench, or excavation, or under and around heavy equipment during operation.
- Machines should be operated at a speed and manner consistent with conditions on the job.
- Never allow anyone other than the operator to "ride" on the equipment.
- Do not leave equipment unattended while the motor is running.
- Always lower blades, buckets, lifts, and other articulating devices to ground level after completing work.

### Primary causes of injury when working on and around heavy equipment are:

- Injuries resulting from accidents occurring during repair and maintenance of equipment.
- Leaving earth-moving equipment unattended in dangerous positions.
- Sudden movement of a power unit while being attached to earth-moving equipment.
- Uncontrolled heavy equipment traffic through the work area.
- Unexpected violent tipping of the equipment.
- Striking individuals with the equipment, particularly the blade, boom, or hoe.
- Failure of lifting mechanisms or unexpected cave-ins.

**Personal Protective Equipment:** A wide variety of protective equipment is necessary at a construction job site. These can reduce or prevent personal injury from cuts, burns, falls, and a host of others. All workers must be informed of the PPE required for their particular job.

**Conclusion:** While operators must take many other safety precautions, this overview provides basic guidelines for safe equipment operations. Each piece of equipment has been designed and built with your safety in mind; however, its safe operation is entirely in your hands. Accidents don't just happen, they are caused; which is why they can be prevented.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

*These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.*