

Always use caution

Since you're the supervisor, you're aware that the machinery and tools that are used on site can create hazardous working conditions for your team. Remind the team of some typical scenarios that they should be alert for while they are working.



Restricted visibility

The machinery operator could have restricted visibility due to restraints in the way the machinery is designed. Be alert for moving machinery such as cranes, tractors, dozers, high lifts, trucks, and rollers.

Do not bet your life on the operator being able to see you. Although these kinds of equipment may have back-up beepers, sometimes the ambient noise can muffle the beep.

- If a driver must back their equipment in a job site or in an area where it is difficult to see, have them ask another worker for signalling help.
- If he is unable to find someone to signal, he should disembark, check behind his vehicle to verify that the area is clear, re-enter his vehicle, and then back up promptly.

Keep plenty of distance around machinery

Ensure that your workers are alert for and stay clear of swinging counter weights on machinery such as cranes or excavators. Pinch points can be created between outriggers, buildings or other machinery by the counter weights. Operators should do at least one of the following:

- Verify that there's ample room for other workers to walk past
- Flag the area with flags or cones
- Barricade the area to prevent pedestrian and machinery traffic. This is the best option of the three.

Riding on machinery

Don't allow team members to "catch a ride" on machinery. The only approved areas for riding on machinery is in a seat with the seat belt engaged.

Don't allow the team to ride on running boards, ladders, bed or the drawbar. The load being carried such as forms, lumber, pipes or blocks could shift and injure them. They could fall while the machinery is moving. Keep this in mind – no seat, no ride.

Teaching moments

Visit a job site or watch a video of moving equipment and talk about the safety precautions that are being taken. Are the precautions adequate or should more be done?

Start the conversation

- What is the best way to keep workers from being hit by swinging counter weights?
- How can a backing truck keep from hitting someone or something?
- Why should you assume the machinery operator cannot see you?
- Do you know anyone who has been involved in an off-the-road moving equipment accident?

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