

# Heavy Equipment Safety

## The Basics:

- Be sure you are properly trained for the type of equipment assigned.
- Read the manufacturer's safety instructions.
- Know the range & limitations of your equipment.
- Perform a safety check prior to use.

## Use Safety Features:

- Make sure all safety features are installed & in good condition
- USE THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT
- Use required PPE when operating your equipment
- Keep all guards in place around power transmission apparatus & other moving parts
- Use ladders & handholds & climb down, don't jump.

## Watch Out For:

- Excavation edges, changes in terrain & unstable ground
- Overhead & underground utilities, stumps, rocks, low tree limbs & the boss's pickup truck
- Other traffic in the area including fellow workers on foot
- Hazards associated with special conditions such as extreme weather, refueling, & other work going on around you.

### \* 5 Steps in Your Start-of-Shift Safety Check for Heavy Equipment \*

- #1 Approach equipment, walk fully around it and look for hazards on or near equipment.
- #2 Inside the cab, remove trash, make sure cab windows are clean, adjust mirrors.  
Check fire extinguisher, turn on all exterior lights, make sure seatbelt is ready to use.
- #3 Outside again, check lights, tires, suspension & steering system, exterior hoses & filters.  
Look for cracks in metal structure, unguarded moving parts or other unsafe conditions.  
Check engine compartment and belts. Make sure fluid levels are correct.
- #4 Inside again, check all gauges & warning lights before starting. Make sure parking brake is set & other manufacturer's engine start-up guidelines are followed.  
Start engine; check gauges & warning lights again. Check engine sounds.
- #5 Before moving, warn people in area. Test your equipment's movements. Make sure backup alarm can be heard.



### Be sure you know the answers to these questions!

**Question:** When do you use seat belts?

**Answer:** Whenever I am in the cab & the equipment is on.

**Question:** At what point in the safety checklist do you put on your seatbelt?

**Answer:** At the beginning of Step #4 and always before I turn on the equipment.

**Question:** Is there any situation where you would not wear a seatbelt?

**Answer:** Only if my equipment does not have a Roll-Over Protection System (ROPS).