

TOOLBOX TALKS

OPERATOR VISIBILITY AROUND HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

Proper site planning, traffic control systems and employee training are good ways to reduce incidents where heavy equipment and employees must work in the same area.

SITE PLANNING

- Whenever possible plan your site to allow for drive through operations, to eliminate backing-up
- Establish site procedures to keep foot traffic, light vehicle traffic and heavy equipment traffic separate
- Establish a traffic control system using traffic lights or spotters

EQUIPMENT PLANNING

- Equip machines with back-up alarms and be sure they are properly operating
- Train operators to sound the horn before moving backward, when changing direction or approaching a junction (particularly one with limited visibility) and before starting the machine
- Establish an alarm code that everyone understands (i.e., sounding horn 2 times when moving backwards, etc.)

EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- If a spotter is used always be sure they are wearing high visibility vests or equivalent, are properly trained, and use the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the jobsite
- Spotters should use clearly understood hand signals or traffic control devices (i.e., signs, paddles, etc.)
- Spotters should know operator visibility limitations, always remain visible to the operator and be sure eye contact is made before any signals are given
- Workers on foot should be trained to recognize operator visibility limitations and avoid them
- Drivers must be trained to understand signals and ALWAYS obey the spotter
- Drivers should never move their machines unless given permission by the spotters

Discussion Date:

Employee Participants:

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There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit cat.com/toolboxtalks.

