

On Guard: Working Safely Around Heavy Equipment



General

- Heavy equipment accidents can occur:
 - workers get too comfortable and lose awareness
 - workers become desensitized to backup alarms/other warning sounds
 - other job site noises block-out warning sounds
 - heavy equipment blind spots impede operators' vision

Safe Work Practices

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times:
 - know exactly what heavy equipment is operating nearby
 - make sure the operators know exactly where you'll be working
 - avoid high traffic areas whenever possible
 - wear a high-contrast vest when working around high traffic areas
 - get operators' attention before entering their work areas
 - listen for backup alarms
 - avoid wearing hoods or other clothing that obstruct your view
 - avoid placing yourself between equipment, loads, or stationary objects
 - avoid walking near the swing radius of cranes
 - avoid walking under loads being lifted or moved by any type of equipment
 - use hand signals or a two-way radio when working with an operator
 - wear a high-contrast vest when spotting for operators



