



## ***Public Sector Safety Talks—APERMA***

### **Check Before You Move Heavy Mobile Equipment**

You've probably seen the havoc heavy construction equipment can cause. Maybe you know someone who was killed or badly injured by being run over or backed over. And you may even have seen a parked car that had been crushed. Usually, this kind of accident happens because someone fails to take commonsense precautions.

#### **Bigger and Faster Today**

Years ago, heavy equipment was big, bulky and slow moving. The operator could see well in all directions. Today, this equipment is heavy, large and fast moving. Often the operator's field of vision is restricted. So now the equipment operator has to be more alert than he was a few years ago to make sure he doesn't injure or kill a fellow worker.

#### **Take a Walk Before You Ride**

Before you climb aboard a piece of heavy equipment, walk completely around it. Then you'll be able to see any people or obstacles in the vicinity. And you'll be able to warn anyone who is in the way that you are getting ready to move the equipment. With all the noise, it is sometimes difficult to hear one more rig start up or start to move. If mechanics have been working on a rig, be sure they have finished their work and all have left. Make sure they haven't left any tools or equipment behind either.

#### **General Operating Precautions:**

- Machines should be maintained in good working order. All vital parts such as motors, chassis, blades, blade holders, tracks, drives, hydraulic and pneumatic mechanisms, and transmissions should be thoroughly inspected each day.
- Before using the starting motor, the operator should check to make sure that all operating controls are in the neutral position.
- Machines should be operated at speeds and in a manner consistent with conditions on the particular job.
- At no time should a piece of equipment be left unattended while the motor is running, especially if the machine is on an inclined surface or on loose material.
- Personnel should stop motors and refrain from smoking during refueling operations.
- The operator should keep deck plates or steps on equipment free from grease, oil, ice and mud. Corded soles shoes are recommended.
- Employees, other than operator, should not ride on equipment.

**Please feel free to contact Jim Bergemann or Kathi Williams at 800-274-2788 with any questions regarding the above material.**

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