



Operator Visibility Around Heavy Equipment

SAFETY.CAT.COM™

Toolbox Talks are intended to facilitate health and safety discussions on the job site. For additional Toolbox Talks, please visit SAFETY.CAT.COM™.

TOPIC: Operator Visibility - 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
- Reduce the amount of foot traffic allowed on the jobsite
- 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 when moving backwards, forward, or when starting your machine
- Establish an alarm system that everyone uses (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 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 machine unless given permission by the spotter

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

The material in this document is provided for informational purposes only and not as a comprehensive or exhaustive resource on this topic. This material has been compiled from a multitude of sources believed to be accurate; however, Caterpillar Inc. assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or currency of this information and encourages you to consult experts in this area for more information. In no event does the content of this document supersede any applicable local, state, or federal statutes or regulations.

SAFETY.CAT.COM™
<http://safety.cat.com/toolbox>

