

How can we work safely around heavy equipment?

[Ask the following questions and give time for answers.]

What are the hazards? Heavy equipment backing over workers, cranes hitting workers during swings, equipment dropping loads onto workers, workers not visible at night

What are the results? Broken bones, head injuries, death

What should we look for? Heavy equipment traffic, poor visibility, working backup alarms, cranes with swing radius clearly marked, spotters during backing up

[Relate this incident or, better, one you know.]

Actual Incident: A 36-year-old construction inspector for the county died when an asphalt dump truck backed over him. The inspector was wearing an orange reflective vest and hard-hat and the dump truck had a backup alarm that was functioning. The truck traveled approximately 770 feet in reverse at 5 to 10 mph before backing over the inspector who had his back to the truck.

[Ask the following question and ensure every item is covered.]

How do we prevent these results?

- Never work directly under a suspended load.
- Watch for signs of problems during each lift.
- Always check for overhead power lines and other obstructions.
- Have a spotter during backing up and stay out of blind spots.
- Make sure there is a written plan for critical lifts.
- Wear high-visibility clothing.
- Make sure backup alarms are working and listen for them.
- Communicate with operators by radio and by eye contact.



[Ask the following questions and ensure every item is covered.]

Let's talk about this site now.

- Are there any areas with particularly blind spots for operators backing up?
- What hazards have you seen here that we all should be aware of?
- Is there something we can do to limit the risks from these hazards?
- Does everyone know what a critical lift is?

[Record questions below that you want to ask about this site.]

