



## STRUCK BY VEHICLES

Motor vehicle safety in relation to highway work zones is the **one of the top hazards**, making it a very big issue and often **related directly to heavy moving equipment**. Heavy construction equipment safety is important on many levels. Poor safety practices when working on or around vehicles and heavy equipment can be deadly. Many workers each year are **crushed** by **falling equipment**, **struck by swinging backhoes**, **run over**, or **pinned between vehicles** and walls or other equipment (to name a few). Construction equipment is so large and has the potential for crushing more than one worker if it were to topple.

### HEAVY CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Follow these guidelines to **staying safe** when working **around, with**, and inside of **heavy construction equipment**.

- Make sure equipment is in **good working order each and every day** and before every single operation.
- Use the buddy system. This mean **if you have a blind spot**; and large machinery often does, than you **need one or more guides carefully directing you where to go** when **backing up** a large piece of equipment. The use of back up alarms save lives, be certain the alarm on your machine or vehicle is works.
- Triple check that **all individuals and co-workers are clear** out of the area **before dumping a load** of materials.
- Clear the area when **unloading machinery** and equipment and when **changing attachments on piece of heavy equipment**.
- **Never exceed the machines load limit** according to the manual –
  - ❖ Each machine should have its own **manual available** for you to review. If you don't know what your machine can handle, **read the manual**.
  - ❖ It is also a better practice **to keep the load weight under the maximum load rating**.
  - ❖ **Be familiar with the weight of the material and equipment** you are hauling.
- **All workers should wear bright protective clothing** and **signs that are** highly visible should be set up in a way **to discourage non-workers from entering** a site.
- Never forget one simple rule: **parking breaks**. They are **Easy to operate and can save lives**. Use the parking break whenever the machine is not moving! Many people and property have been injured, damaged and killed because the parking break was not set!

If vehicle safety practices are not observed at your site, you **risk being pinned between construction vehicles and walls, struck by swinging backhoes, crushed beneath overturned vehicles; you risk being struck by trucks or cars.**

## HOW DO I AVOID HAZARDS?

- **Wear seat belts** that meet OSHA standards [[29 CFR 1926.601\(b\)\(9\)](#)], except on equipment that is designed only for standup operation, or that has **no [rollover protective structure](#)**.
- **Check vehicles before each shift** to assure that all parts and accessories are in safe operating condition.
- **Do not drive a vehicle in reverse gear with an obstructed rear view**, unless it has an audible reverse alarm, or another worker signals that it is safe.
- **Drive vehicles or equipment only on roadways or grades that are safely constructed** and maintained.
- Make sure that you **and all other personnel are in the clear** before using dumping or lifting devices.
- **Lower or block [bulldozer and scraper blades, end-loader buckets, dump bodies](#)**, etc., **when not in use**, and leave all controls in **neutral** position.
- **Set parking brakes** when vehicles and equipment are parked, and chock the wheels if they are on an incline.
- All vehicles **must have adequate braking systems** and other safety devices.
- **Haulage vehicles** that are loaded by cranes, power shovels, loaders etc., **must have a [cab shield](#)** or canopy that protects the driver from falling materials.
- **Do not exceed a vehicle's rated [load](#) or [lift capacity](#)**.
- **Do not carry personnel** unless there is a **[safe place to ride](#)**.
- **Use traffic signs, barricades or flaggers** when construction takes place near public roadways.
- **Workers must be highly visible** in all levels of light. **Warning clothing**, such as red or orange vests, **[is required](#)**; and if worn for night work, must be of **reflective material**.