

Company Name

SAFE WORK PRACTICE

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATION

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

1. Reflective vest or clothing while outside the equipment;
2. Temperature appropriate clothing;

INTRODUCTION

Slips, Trips and falls when climbing on or off heavy equipment are a real source of injuries. Exposure to the elements (extreme heat or cold) can cause injuries and affect productivity.

PRACTICES

1. Workers must inspect the steps, grab handles and any other components used climb or descend from heavy equipment. Any damage or defects must be reported. In winter look for build-up of snow, slush and/or ice. In summer look for mud or soil which cause the employee to loose balance. **MAINTAIN THREE POINT CONTACT AT ALL TIMES.**
2. The operator should perform the required pre-start checks prior to operation of the equipment. Any deficiencies must be reported to the supervisor immediately.
3. Cab housekeeping must be maintained to reduce the risk of accident and injury.
4. Proper and appropriate personal protective equipment must be worn when operating heavy equipment. Prepare for extreme temperatures. Have warm work wear for extreme cold. Have water available and adjust frequency of breaks for extreme heat.
5. Operators must report near miss incidents to their supervisor.
6. Proper posture when operating heavy equipment can improve productivity, reduce operator fatigue and reduce the possibility of operator injury. All operators should be aware of proper ergonomics.
7. When the piece of heavy equipment is parked at the end of the shift or for maintenance, proper parking procedures should be followed:
 - Park on stable, level ground, away from vehicular and equipment traffic;
 - Lower all raised equipment to the ground;
 - Set the parking brake;
 - Secure the cab to prevent unauthorized entry.
8. All heavy equipment should be installed with back-up alarms, mirrors and lights in good working order. Operators should clean glass and mirrors at the beginning of their shift and when there visibility becomes impaired.

