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Heavy Equipment

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Supervising Safety Newsletter

The future is upon us. Granite Construction is onsite and performing dirt work around Site Services, CMOB, Warehouses 1, 2, 3, and 4, as well as Post 1, Post 3, and the west side of the Converter Station. As many have noticed, heavy equipment travel around these areas has increased dramatically. Being aware, alert, and careful when traveling through these areas is of the utmost importance. In fact, if you don't need to be in these work zones, don't be!

When working on or around heavy equipment in the construction zone areas, take special care to wear the required high visibility clothing. It is important for operators and those working in the area to be alert and aware of their surroundings.

Operators can help reduce the risk of injury or fatality associated with heavy equipment through safe practices by:

- Being familiar with the equipment and the operator's manual.
- Inspecting the equipment at the start of each shift; including the brake system, headlights, tail lights, brake lights, windshield wipers, and audible warning devices, such as the horn and the back-up alarm.
- Adjusting all side and back mirrors to help compensate for blind spots.
- Ensuring workers are clear of equipment before operating.
- Acknowledging and allowing safe passage to workers who alert them that they are approaching.
- Avoiding operating equipment parallel to slopes or embankments.
- Turning off the engine and engaging brakes before leaving equipment.
- Facing the equipment and maintaining three points of contact while getting on and off the equipment.
- Always wearing their seat belts.
- Avoiding overloading vehicles.

- Making sure to follow and obey all speed limit signs and rules.

Ground workers help minimize the risk of heavy equipment-related injuries by:

- Avoiding blind spots. Do not park, stand, or work where you can't be seen.
- Avoiding setting up their work area near heavy mobile equipment. If you don't need to be in the area, don't be.
- Avoiding walking or working under suspended loads. Be alert and know what is going on around you. If possible, avoid all areas where heavy equipment is being used.
- Making eye contact with and alerting the operator that you are in the area. Ensure the operator sees you before approaching the equipment.
- Riding only in approved seats and wearing a seat belt.
- Wearing high visibility clothing.

When working around heavy equipment every day, it is easy to become accustomed to it. This may lead to not giving much thought to the inherent risks that go along with heavy equipment operations and safety. Taking some time to understand, follow, adhere to safety rules as well as staying alert to our surroundings while working, can help us all stay safe.

CAUTION

Watch For
**HEAVY
EQUIPMENT**

