Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!

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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series. This training is meant to help you understand the general safety principles associated with earth-moving machines. Excavation and other earth-moving operations involve many workplace hazards that you should be aware of. The information in this training will help you make decisions that can mitigate those hazards.

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Earth-moving machines come in a seemingly endless number of sizes and functions. Some machines are small enough that they can practically work indoors. Others can reach many stories in height, with attachments capable of moving thousands of tons of earth per day.

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Many people likely remember playing with miniature earth-movers as children. However, these machines are not toys, and they should never be treated as such. The bigger the machine, the more damage it can do, so it's absolutely necessary that operators learn how to use them responsibly.

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STANDARDS

29 CFR 1926 Subpart P – Excavations

29 CFR 1926 Subpart W – Rollover Protective structures and Overhead Protection

29 CFR 1926.602 – Material Handling Equipment

29 CFR 1926.603 – Motor Vehicles

29 CFR 1926.604 – Site Clearing

These are some of the main standards concerning earth-moving machines. Many states or provinces have additional standards, as do some industries. We have provided these as a guide, but it's your responsibility to know all federal, local, and company rules that apply to your job site.

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Why Training?

No matter the situation, it is common to hear workers and even employers ask, “Where does it state we need to be trained?” Can’t a worker also be deemed “qualified” based on experience? The answer is “no.” Experience helps, yes, but regulations are very clear that employees must be trained (no matter how long they’ve been on the job) and that it is the employer who is responsible for overseeing that safety training, ensuring employees have the understanding, knowledge, and skills needed to operate safely.

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Initial training and refresher training, as well as any written and practical evaluations, must be documented and filed. At the very least, employers need to show proof of proper and consistent training (in the way of training outlines, class lists, training goals, tests, certificates, and so on.) These documents should include the name of the person who taught the class or conducted the evaluation.

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WORKERS MUST RECEIVE REFRESHER TRAINING WHEN...

1. There are changes in their assigned duties.
2. There are changes regarding potential exposure to hazards, for which the employee has not received training.
3. If any deficiency has been noted in an employee's work performance that is related to the safety and health of themselves or other workers.
4. If an accident has occurred, or anytime an employee is injured or nearly injured during operations.

Note: In some areas, refresher training is required at least every three years (if not sooner).

Training is not just a one-and-done occurrence; it is on-going. In fact, training should take place whenever there is a demonstrated need for it. We have listed several instances when refresher training would be required. Can you think of any others?

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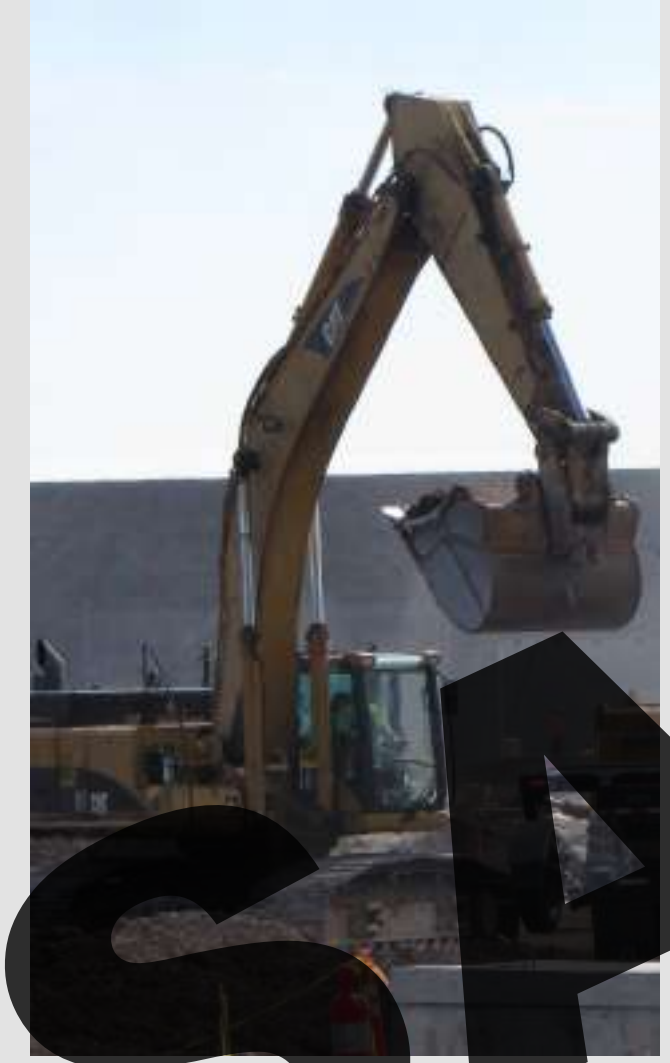

The extent of training will be determined by the employer, but at the very least it should include classroom instruction followed by a written and practical examination that prove continued competency.

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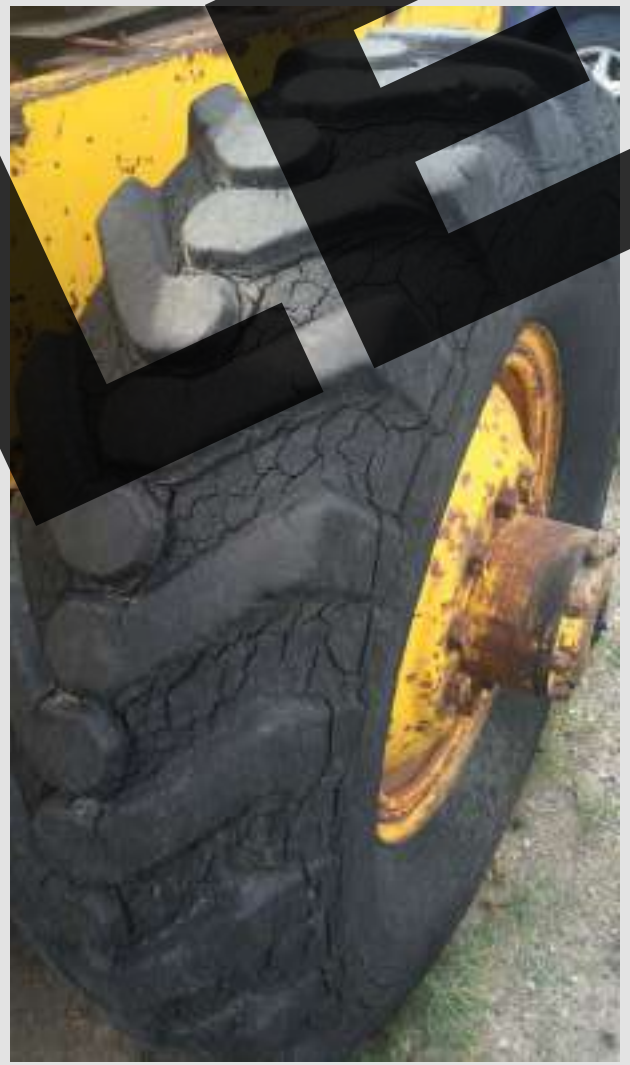
For the purposes of this training, we will begin by discussing the importance of inspecting your machine at the beginning of each work shift. We will look at many of the common components found on earth-moving machines and explain the kinds of wear and tear you should look for during your inspections.



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Next, we will discuss the forces that can affect your machine's stability, an important factor in avoiding rollovers and other accidents. We will explain some of the precautions you should take when operating over uneven ground or during inclement weather.

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After that, we will talk about the safety precautions which you must take while operating earth-moving machinery. This includes knowing how to operate within the limitations of your machine. It also involves watching out for potentially hazardous conditions around your work area.

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Finally, we will discuss the most common types of earth-moving operations. We will highlight some of the hazards unique to each operation and explain how to perform earth-moving tasks without putting yourself or the people around you in danger.

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The Life & Times

Monday, September 18, 2019 Safety in the Workplace - A3

Investigators looking into recent worker fatality

Federal Way – Early in the morning last Saturday local construction workers hired to install several utility poles were involved in an accident that killed two and injured four. The horrific chain of events started with a relatively simple accident at 7 am during rush hour when a

Along the way, we will include some accident profiles involving earth-moving machinery. These profiles are real, although in some cases, two or three similar accidents have been combined for the purpose of illustrating key safety principles. They will show just how quickly things can go wrong when employees neglect their training or use equipment incorrectly.

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Pre-Shift Inspections

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