

Handout Session 53

Mobile Equipment

Job steps affected by today's topic

Operating off-road equipment

Backing a truck
with a trailer

Backing a
vehicle with
obscured
visibility

Setting up tree
care equipment

Potential hazards

Faulty
equipment

Steep slopes

Underground
voids

Unsuitable
ground
conditions

Height or width
restrictions



When setting up and operating equipment, review what could go wrong...before it does!

Action steps

- Before starting up any piece of equipment, check to make sure that it is ready for use.
- Use a pre-operation checklist for every truck and piece of equipment. The employees cannot use the equipment until it has been checked.
- It's a good idea to get a little site history from the client before you transport or set up heavy equipment on the property. Underground voids like septic or holding tanks, well cisterns, etc. can cause unexpected problems.
- Get help when you're backing a piece of equipment or maneuvering it in tight quarters. A spotter can be your second set of eyes to look for obstacles to avoid as you focus on the controls, etc.
- When setting up equipment, review what could go wrong – before it does. Traffic, wires, soil conditions and bystanders can always pose a problem.
- Make sure you keep your equipment's exhaust pointed away or otherwise separated from combustible dry grass, leaf litter, chips, etc.

What else can you do to prevent injuries?

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Circle the best answer

- 1) When the operators' view of hazards may be obstructed...
 - a) walk-through inspections of the area must be made beforehand
 - b) hazards that cannot be removed must be flagged or marked
 - c) the operator needs to be aware of the hazards before proceeding
 - d) All the above

- 2) Equipment shall be inspected, operated, and maintained by any crew member who hasn't been assigned other duties
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 3) Equipment with an obstructed view to the rear should be backed up only when absolutely necessary, and...
 - a) must not be backed up unless the vehicle has a reverse signal alarm
 - b) must not be backed up without a spotter
 - c) must not be backed up unless immediately before backing up, the driver determines through a visual walk-around inspection that there are no people or obstructions in the way
 - d) Any of the above is acceptable

- 4) Exhaust systems on today's gas- and diesel-powered vehicles and equipment provide adequate protection, and additional precautions against fire hazard aren't needed.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 5) When operating equipment off-road, operators must know...
 - a) the height and width of the vehicle and any towed equipment
 - b) the manufacturers' instructions and guidelines for operation
 - c) the condition in which it is intended to be operated
 - d) All the above