

# Working around Heavy Equipment "In the Clear"

## SAFE WORK PROCEDURE

### **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT**

- Hearing protection
- Hi-Vis clothing and hard hat
- Substantial appropriate footwear at all times
- Gloves when doing maintenance or servicing

Working in the presence of Heavy Equipment applies to all Forestry workers, contractors, and visitors. This can even apply to pedestrians travelling on the road. The hazards do not go away when the equipment leaves the site or block.

When entering another persons' "working circle" where there is risk, one must clearly communicate intentions to the other person before entering.

- Communication may be verbal (e.g., voice, radio) or visual (e.g., hand signals),
- Communication must be acknowledged and permission to enter must be given, and
- Wait until operator "de-energizes" (boom, blade, grapple, etc.) and clearly acknowledges that it is OK to enter his working circle (by radio communication, flashing lights or facing worker(s)) before entering.

The operator of a machine must not move that machine or attachments unless he is sure that all workers who entered the working circle have left the working circle.

Landing workers must designate a Safe Zone and return to that area when the task is completed. Safe Zone location must be communicated to all landing users.

The "working circle" is the area, like a bubble, around a person that covers the movement of the person and any equipment they operate- including any moving parts or attachments (e.g., trees or logs). Remember, the "working circle" can move as the person or equipment plus attachments moves.

Safely working in the area of any heavy equipment requires the shared responsibility of both the equipment operator and their coworkers. As with all logging operations, each project must have a prepared and well-articulated safety plan and prework. This preparation is both a written document and a shared dialogue with all employees and subcontractors at the beginning of each project as well as each shift. Consideration should be given to issues related to working around heavy equipment:

- Inspection of the equipment prior to operation to ensure that all lights and audible alarms are working properly.
- A defined route and clear visual path for the operator when moving equipment from the point of origin to the work site.
- Set up of the equipment at the work area should be stable and have enough space to allow the equipment and workers to perform the planned tasks.
- Use 3-point mounting and dismounting technique off of heavy equipment - NEVER JUMP OFF HEAVY

### **EQUIPMENT**

- Establish a danger zone, that is; the working area where contact could result in personal injury or
- damage during operations.
- Predefined hand signals or use of two-way radios between the operator and person in charge of the
- work crew to accomplish any and all movement.
- Maintain a clear line of site between the operator and workers. Blind spots are common. If you cannot
- see the operator, they cannot see you.

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- When needed use a spotter when heavy equipment is in motion. This requires communication between the operator and workers to maintain safe movement.
- Always try to walk on the driver side of equipment as the passenger side has a larger blind spot.
- Workers should keep a safe distance from all sides of the heavy equipment while it is in use.
- Be aware of the swing radius on certain equipment.
- Wear high visibility clothing and Personal Protective Equipment
- Never work under a suspended or overhead load
- Always stay alert

**Many times, when workers think they can be seen by the operators of heavy equipment they cannot. You may be in a blind spot or the operator has been driving in a designated travel path for a period of time and the only thing that has changed is you!!!! Make eye contact with operators**

## OH&S REGULATION 26.14.2 DESIGNATED SAFE WORK AREA

1. A safe work area must be designated for workers on foot near any operating logging equipment.
2. The boundaries of a safe work area designated under subsection (1) must be communicated to all workers within and near the safe work area.
3. No equipment may enter or proceed through a safe work area unless
  - (a) the equipment operator first obtains permission in a clear and unmistakable manner from all the workers in that safe work area or from the supervisor of those workers, and
  - (b) those workers take a safe position.

and:

### 26.14.3 Traffic control

If vehicles on a road in a forestry operation are required to drive through a hazard area identified in section 26.14.1 or through a safe work area designated in section 26.14.2, effective traffic control appropriate to the hazard must be implemented.

