

# HAZARDS

## OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Heavy equipment is used on many types of worksites all around the world. Heavy equipment is very effective for the job it was designed to perform but it can also be very hazardous.

Proper work planning, as well as operating equipment within its designed limits, are important basic steps for safe operation.

- HAZARDS OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT
- HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATION BEST PRACTICES



**BC Forest Safety**

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- **Struck-by hazards** - Heavy equipment is responsible for many injuries and fatalities in the workplace. Too often, ground personnel and pedestrians are struck by equipment when they are in the line of fire.
- **Property damage** - When operators do not see vehicles, materials, objects, tools, buildings, etc. in their area of operation, property damage occurs. This can cost employers millions of dollars a year in losses.
- **Contact with power lines** - Equipment should stay at least **10 feet** away from power lines and poles. When the line's voltage increases, the distance from the line(s) also needs to increase.
- **Leaks** - Leaks can cause issues in the equipment as well as damage to the environment.
- **Equipment failure** - Hydraulic or other systems failure can cause a major incident.

## BEST PRACTICES RELATING TO HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATION

- All equipment should be inspected prior to use. Any problems discovered should be corrected before it is used.
- Equipment should have seat belts and a roll-over protection system to protect the operator in case of roll-over or crash.
- Work areas should be properly delineated and enough space given to heavy equipment to operate properly. Clear out all unnecessary personnel, objects and vehicles from where the equipment is operating.
- Operators should complete a walk-around of their equipment every time before getting back into the cab to be sure no objects, people, or vehicles are in a blind spot.
- Proper training and fit-for-work. Employees need to be familiar with the equipment that they operate. Employees also need to ensure that they are not operating equipment if they are excessively fatigued or sick.



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