

# POWERED MOBILE EQUIPMENT

## IDENTIFY

Powered mobile equipment can be a valuable tool on a construction site, but can also pose a risk to nearby workers, traffic, or pedestrians — especially if the operator can't see them.

This toolbox talk is designed to help employers ensure that all workers are safe on site when powered mobile equipment is being used.

## COMMUNICATE AND CONTROL

All guidelines can be referenced in the Workplace Safety and Health Regulation. See Part 22 for powered mobile equipment and Part 25 when working in the vicinity of overhead powerlines.

### Employers

When a job calls for powered mobile equipment, employers must follow these safety measures to prevent risks or potential injuries:

- Review safe work practices and procedures on sites where workers and/or the public are within range of moving vehicles and/or powered mobile equipment.
- Ensure that all workers receive proper training on how to either operate the mobile equipment or work alongside one.
- Ensure that all workers are aware of the potential hazards on-site.
- Establish “safety zones” between the operating mobile equipment and workers/public.
- Ensure that no one approaches the mobile equipment until it has stopped, and the operator has indicated that it is safe.

### Operators

- Operators should perform a pre-operational inspection following manufacturers recommendations before beginning work.
- Ensure permits are in place if required.
- Ensure that your work area is clear of all workers, traffic, and hazards.
- Ensure you have locations for buried electrical lines, natural gas lines, and other utilities.

- When operating mobile equipment, do not carry a load higher than necessary — you'll limit your vision/capacity to observe your surroundings.
- Avoid using cell phones when operating mobile equipment.
- All powered mobile equipment should be equipped with a functioning beacon and an audible reverse warning.

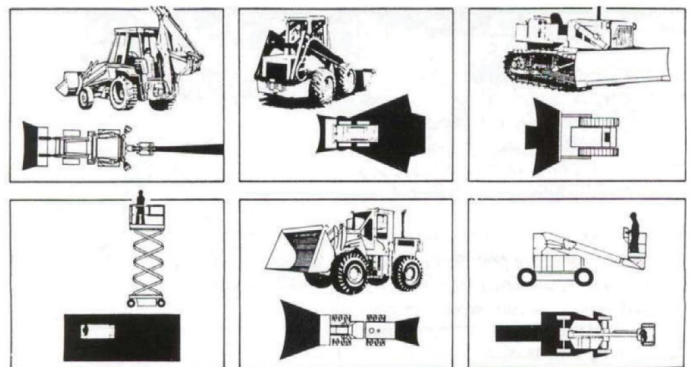
### Nearby workers

- Before work begins, ensure that you and your co-workers are aware of all mobile equipment operating in and around the site.
- Wear high visibility PPE when working with or near mobile equipment.
- Do not take shortcuts across areas where mobile equipment is working.
- Keep in eye contact with the operator when working near moving machinery or equipment.

### Blind spots

- Poor sight lines and visibility issues are a risk when working with mobile equipment. Be mindful of the dimensions of the piece of equipment and where the operator is positioned on the equipment.

Here's a chart on driver blind spots on commonly used construction vehicles (dark areas):



Illustrations courtesy CSAO

# THE QUIZ

1. When a job calls for powered mobile equipment, employers must:

- a) Establish “safety zones” between the equipment and workers/public
- b) Review safe work practices and procedures surrounding mobile equipment
- c) Ensure that all workers receive proper training on operating or working around mobile equipment
- d) All of the above

2. Operators have full visibility while operating a piece of mobile equipment:

TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

3. When a job calls for powered mobile equipment, operators must:

- a) Take shortcuts, whenever possible, to get the job done faster
- b) Use a cell phone to contact surrounding workers
- c) Leave the mobile equipment running at all times
- d) None of the above

4. Fill in the blanks:

Operators should do a \_\_\_\_\_ following manufacturers recommendations \_\_\_\_\_ beginning work and be equipped with a functioning \_\_\_\_\_ and an audible \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Powered mobile equipment can pose a risk to nearby workers, traffic, or pedestrians:

TRUE \_\_\_\_\_ FALSE \_\_\_\_\_

6. Fill in the blanks:

Other workers should maintain \_\_\_\_\_ with the operator and be aware of \_\_\_\_\_ around powered mobile equipment.

**ANSWERS:**  
1. d; 2. FALSE; 3. d;  
4. Pre-use inspection, before, beacon, reverse warning;  
5. TRUE; 6. Eye contact, blind spots