

Mobile equipment striking a worker or rolling over has caused multiple serious workplaces incidents or fatalities in Yukon workplaces. Working in or around mobile equipment presents significant risk of injury because of its size and complexity, as well as the remote or difficult terrains where such equipment is often used. Mobile equipment is any wheeled or tracked vehicle that is engine or motor powered, including backhoes, skid steers, excavators, road grading and surfacing machinery, loaders and tractors.

What's the hazard?

A hazard is something that may expose a person to a risk of injury. Below are examples of hazards that can contribute injury when working in or near mobile equipment. Which could happen in your workplace? Are there any others that may be relevant in your workplace?

Examples of hazards when working in or near mobile equipment:

- rollover while on a slope or during loading or unloading
- load falling onto an operator or other worker
- collision with workers or obstacles
- unintended movement of a vehicle
- unexpected release of stored energy

How can pre-use inspection help prevent injury when working with mobile equipment?

The most effective way to prevent injury when working in or near mobile equipment is to eliminate the risk of being exposed to a hazard. Effective hazard identification, risk assessment and hazard controls can help prevent injuries from mobile equipment.

Specific controls to prevent injury must be identified based on a hazard assessment of the mobile equipment being used in each workplace. Employers, supervisors and operators must all ensure that mobile equipment used in workplaces is in safe operating condition. A pre-use mobile equipment inspection could include the following:

- wearing the required personal protective equipment, like safety footwear, long pants, high-vis vest, hearing protection, hard hat and gloves
- conducting a walk-around visual inspection
- checking for overhead wires, uneven surfaces and buried utilities
- repairing loose or worn parts immediately
- inspecting for leaks
- inflating tires properly and checking for excessive wear
- ensuring the falling object protective structure (FOPS) or rollover protective structure (ROPS) are in good condition
- cleaning windshield, lights and mirrors
- removing grease from grab bars, handrails and steps
- facing equipment when climbing up or down
- checking the fluid levels including fuel, coolant, engine oil and hydraulic oil

Talk leader instructions:

- This is background information ONLY.
- Be sure to customize to your organization.
- Consider printing copies of this sheet for yourself and each participant.
- Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet.
- Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible. Be open to questions.
- Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- Fill in the name of your organization, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- File your sheet in your worker records to document the Safety Talk.

- checking to ensure there is a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and any tools or supplies that you will need to perform your task
- making sure the communication system is operational
- warning personnel in the area before starting the engine
- fastening the seat belt, adjusting the seat and making sure all operating controls are in neutral and the parking brake is set

Required by law:

- employers must do hazard assessments and identify any hazards in their workplaces, including when working in or near mobile equipment
- employers must have safe work procedures for identified hazards that cannot be eliminated
- employers must offer training to employees on safe work procedures
- employers must have procedures for reporting, investigating, and documenting incidents and injuries, and offer training to employees on those procedures
- operators must inspect mobile equipment according to the employer's instructions and the Yukon *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*
- at the start of each shift and whenever else required, mobile equipment operators must inspect their mobile equipment, report any defects to their supervisor as soon as they are noticed and make any necessary repairs
- employers and workers have specific operation, maintenance and training requirements when working in or near mobile equipment, see Part 6 - Mobile Equipment of the *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*

Discussion questions:

1. Which safe work procedures for mobile equipment inspection are required in your workplace?
2. What actions can you take to prevent injury when working in or near mobile equipment?

More information:

If you have questions about mobile equipment inspections, please contact:

- Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, 867-667-5450 or 1-800-661-0443 or worksafe@gov.yk.ca

Disclaimer

This resource has been prepared to help workplaces understand and comply with workplace health and safety laws. It is not legal advice and is not intended to replace the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act, S.Y. 2021, c.11* and *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*.

Safety Talk record:

Print and complete this page or fill in electronically, then save as a record of your Safety Talk.

Comments/suggestions

Organization name

Safety Talk leader

Date

Safety Talk participants

print name

signature
