



# TOOL BOX TALK



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## WORKING WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Before operating heavy equipment on a job site make sure you are familiar with the safe operating conditions of that particular piece of equipment. Conduct your inspection which would include the following:

- ❖ Test new brakes, clutch, looking at hydraulic lines to assure there are no leaks and immediately reporting any condition to your supervisor.
- ❖ Do not leave any equipment unattended and parked on an incline with the motor idling. The vibration could cause the braking mechanisms to release.
- ❖ Before making any repairs, be sure that the motor is turned out and that the machine is rendered safe. Vibration could again cause a release of steering or directional locks.
- ❖ Assure that if required the heavy piece of equipment has appropriate backup alarms when there is an obstructed view to the rear.
- ❖ After May 1972 certain crawlers, dump trucks, etc. would be required to have fenders or mud flaps.
- ❖ Assure that when you are completed with the work, heavy equipment is parked properly, the gears are put in neutral and the service brake is engaged.

**Rule of thumb:** When a piece of heavy equipment is unattended as if you are 20 feet away from the piece of equipment you should assume that it is on unattended and the equipment would have to be turned off, the keys taken out, brakes put on and/or chalking of the wheels if on an incline.

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