



Worksite: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

TOPIC C311: EXCAVATOR OPERATIONS

Introduction: Excavators are an important piece of equipment in large construction projects. Excavators come in many different types and sizes. These machines are able to move huge amounts of earth quickly. Because of their size and power, strict safety measures need to be in place to avoid serious injury. Let's review the safety guidelines for operating excavators, or when working near them.

General heavy equipment safety precautions for operating an excavator:

- You need to be trained and familiar with the piece of equipment you will be using
- Locate all underground utilities in your work area prior to digging
- Utility companies must be notified of your intention to dig within established response times, usually 48 hours
- When digging approaches the approximate location of underground utilities, use hand digging to find the exact location
- While the excavation is open, exposed utilities must be protected, supported or removed to protect workers
- Inspect excavations, adjacent areas and protective systems daily, to check for any hazardous situations. These inspections must be made prior to work, and as needed throughout the shift
- Inspect equipment and systems for proper operation at the start of each shift
- Never refuel when the engine is running, and don't smoke while refueling or servicing the fuel system
- Before starting the engine, always check that the service and parking brakes are in proper working condition
- Never attempt to start or operate the excavator except from the operator's station
- Keep the floors, the operator's station, and controls free of water, grease, mud and trash
- To avoid being caught in moving parts, don't wear loose fitting clothing
- Make sure all excavations are properly shored, shielded, sloped or stepped. Spoil piles must be located at least 2 feet away from the excavation
- Use dust suppression and control when dust limits visibility, and wear breathing protection when needed
- All cab windows must be kept clean for maximum visibility
- Before transporting an excavator, pin or secure any implements. Check the local government regulations and use required escorts and lighting to provide warning for other drivers
- Always use a traffic control system when working on or near a public thoroughfare
- Flaggers are required at all locations where barricades or warning signs can't control moving traffic
- Employees exposed to traffic flow must wear warning vests of reflective or high visibility material
- Never drive close to the edge of ditches or excavations, unless a warning system such as barricades, hand or mechanical signals, or stop logs is being used
- Never dig when ground workers are under or around the excavator, be aware of crushing hazard caused by the equipment's swing radius
- Never allow anyone underneath loads handled by lifting or digging equipment, and stand clear of any loading operations
- Don't leave the engine running while making adjustments or repairs unless specifically recommended
- Don't make any repairs equipment until proper lockout/tagout procedures are completed

Excavator Facts: Most injuries involving excavators occur to nearby ground workers, not to the operator. Always be aware of the location of co-workers near your machine including the swing radius. Don't operate the excavator at speeds that would prevent the immediate stopping of any implement if needed. Don't carry ground workers anywhere in or on the machine.

Conclusion: Excavators are an excellent labor saving piece of equipment. However, careless operation can result in mistakes costing time, money or even life.

Employee Attendance:(Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

These guidelines do not supersede local, state or federal regulations, and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.