
Toolbox Talk: The Safe Use of Earthmoving Equipment – Before Operations

Description

Today, we will discuss the safe use of earthmoving equipment, focusing on machine safety before operations. Proper pre-start procedures are crucial to ensure the safety of operators and those around them. Understanding and implementing these procedures can prevent accidents and enhance operational efficiency.

Key Points

Pre-Start Procedures

1. Read and Understand Manuals

Always read and understand the Operation and Maintenance Manual before operating any equipment.

2. Pre-Shift Walkaround Inspection

Conduct a thorough inspection of the equipment to identify any potential issues.

3. Clear Path

Ensure all personnel and obstacles are cleared from the machine's path.

4. Battery Check

Turn the battery disconnect switch to "ON".

5. Clean Windows and Doors

Clean and secure all windows and doors for clear visibility.

6. Adjust Mirrors and Seat

Adjust mirrors for optimum vision and the seat for comfortable pedal operation.

7. Seatbelt or Harness

Inspect and fasten your seatbelt or harness.

8. Sound Horn

Sound the horn prior to start-up to alert those nearby.

9. Start Engine

Start the engine from the operator's compartment only.

After Starting the Machine

- **Warm-Up:** Allow the engine to warm up at low idle.
- **Monitoring System Test:** Conduct a monitoring system test as per the manual.
- **Check Indicators:** Frequently check panel indicator lights and gauges.
- **Transmission Oil Level:** Check the transmission oil level if applicable.
- **Brake Checks:** Perform brake checks as per the manual.

Preparing to Move

- **Sound Horn:** Sound the horn according to site regulations, allowing 3-5 seconds for clearance.
- **Raise Implements:** Raise all lowered implements.
- **Service Brake and Parking Brake:** Push on the service brake pedal and disengage the parking brake.
- **Transmission Control:** Unlock the transmission and move the control lever to the desired gear.
- **Release Brake:** Release the service brake pedal.

Key Actions

1. **Daily Inspections:** Perform daily inspections before starting the equipment.
2. **Clear Communication:** Ensure clear communication with all personnel on-site.
3. **Follow Procedures:** Strictly follow all pre-start, start-up, and moving procedures.
4. **Report Issues:** Immediately report any equipment issues or malfunctions.
5. **Stay Alert:** Always stay alert and aware of your surroundings.
6. **Use PPE:** Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times.
7. **Training:** Participate in regular training sessions to stay updated on safety protocols.
8. **Emergency Protocols:** Familiarize yourself with emergency protocols and procedures.
9. **Maintenance:** Ensure regular maintenance of equipment as per the manual.
10. **Safety Meetings:** Attend all safety meetings and toolbox talks.

The Law

- **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974:** Employers must ensure the health, safety, and welfare of employees.
- **Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER):** Equipment must be suitable, maintained, and inspected.
- **Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER):** Specific requirements for lifting equipment to ensure safety.

Why it Matters

Adhering to these safety procedures is crucial for preventing accidents, ensuring the well-being of all personnel, and complying with legal requirements. Non-compliance can lead to severe injuries, fatalities, and legal consequences for both employees and employers.

Engagement

Interactive Questions

1. What are the key steps in the pre-start procedure for earthmoving equipment?
2. Why is it important to sound the horn before starting the machine?
3. How do you check the transmission oil level?

Practical Activities

1. **Walkaround Inspection Drill:** Conduct a mock pre-shift walkaround inspection.
2. **Safety Quiz:** Organize a quiz on the key points discussed in the talk.

Presenter Tips

- **Engage the Audience:** Ask questions and encourage participation.
- **Use Visual Aids:** Show images or videos of proper procedures.
- **Provide Handouts:** Distribute handouts summarizing the key points.
- **Encourage Discussion:** Allow time for attendees to share their experiences and insights.

CATEGORY

1. Uncategorized

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