

# Ground Personnel and Mobile Equipment Meeting Kit



## POWERED MOBILE EQUIPMENT

Powered mobile equipment is self-propelled off-highway equipment used for construction, mining, agriculture, forestry and other purposes. It includes front-end loaders, dozers, backhoes, excavators, skidders, forwarders, tree-harvesters, scrapers, compactors, rollers, graders, agricultural tractors and industrial tractors, but does not include industrial lift trucks or mobile cranes.

**Examples of PME are:**

- Forklifts;
- Pallet jacks
- Agricultural tractors
- Aerial lift platforms.
- Skid steers, loaders, backhoes, trenchers, graders

## MOBILE EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS

While property damage incidents are very common on construction sites due to **mobile equipment operations**, personal injuries to ground personnel are the most serious outcome of these operations.

**Operators of powered mobile equipment must:**

- Ensure that nobody rides on any part of the equipment not designed to carry passengers.
- Use the seatbelts or restraining devices while the equipment is moving.
- Follow safe operating procedures, including air and hydraulic operation, and refuelling.
- When leaving equipment unattended, place it in a safe state by doing the following:
  - Park on level ground.
  - Set the brake.
  - Lower blades/buckets to the ground.
  - Disengage the master clutch.
  - Stop the engine.
  - Remove the key.
- Do Not store flammable substances in the cab or carry loose articles.
- Keep equipment in gear when going downhill.

- Do Not work under or go under raised parts or perform repairs or maintenance unless the parts are blocked.
- Do Not alter any safety device in any way that makes it ineffective.
- Check the effectiveness of all safety devices before operating the equipment.
- Be familiar with the equipment and the operator's manual.
- Inspect the equipment at the start of each shift.
- Adjust all side and back mirrors to help compensate for blind spots.
- Ensure workers are clear of equipment before operating.
- Acknowledge and allow safe passage to workers who alert you that they are approaching.
- Avoid operating equipment parallel to slopes or embankments.
- Turn off the engine and engage brakes before leaving equipment.
- Avoid overloading vehicles.

## **GROUND-WORKER AWARENESS AND SAFE WORK PRACTICES**

Ground workers also play an important role to help minimize the risk of heavy equipment-related injury.

- Wear high-visibility clothing when working around heavy mobile equipment.
- Avoid positioning themselves in a blind spot or riding on moving equipment.
- Avoid setting up their work area near heavy mobile equipment. The operator may not see them if they are bending over to work or grab a tool.

## **BEST PRACTICES TO AVOID INCIDENTS BETWEEN MOBILE EQUIPMENT AND GROUND PERSONNEL**

- Eliminate mobile equipment operation when possible. Obviously the less movement of this equipment equates to less chance an incident can occur.
- Eliminate backing as much as possible during mobile equipment operations.
- Separate ground personnel work areas or walking paths from mobile equipment operations.
- Remove ground personnel from a work area temporarily if mobile equipment has to complete work in the area.
- Utilize spotters when it is safe to do so to communicate with the operators of mobile equipment.

## **PREVENTION TIPS FOR WORKERS:**

- Take all necessary training on the PME you will be operating.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Ask questions if unsure of safe work procedures.
- Complete inspection.
- Wear seat belt.
- Ensure that workers are clear of the equipment before operating it.
- When operating PME to transport materials, carry the load no higher than necessary to avoid limiting your vision.
- When entering a worksite, ensure you are aware of all PME operating around you; follow traffic control plan.
- Wear high visibility apparel when working with or near PME.
- Keep in eye contact with the operator when working near moving machinery or equipment.
- Do not use your cell phone while operating PME.

## **FINAL WORD**

Mobile equipment is necessary to get work done. It is critical for ground personnel to avoid complacency when working in the same area as heavy equipment and vehicles.