

Blind Spots in Mobile Equipment Operations

Potential hazard:

Serious injuries or death can be caused by construction equipment backing over or striking workers.

Poor sight lines and lack of visibility exist in some equipment used on construction project sites and in industrial workplaces. This is especially true when the equipment is backing up, or moving in areas where space is limited and the turning radius is tight.

How to control the hazard:

In order to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths, it is critical for employers to continually review safe work practices at each job site where workers are required to be in the area of moving vehicles and equipment. This may include:

- Controlling the hazard through the use of **engineering controls**
- Using approved **personal protective equipment (PPE)**
- Developing and implementing **safe work procedures**

Using these control methods together provides maximum worker protection.

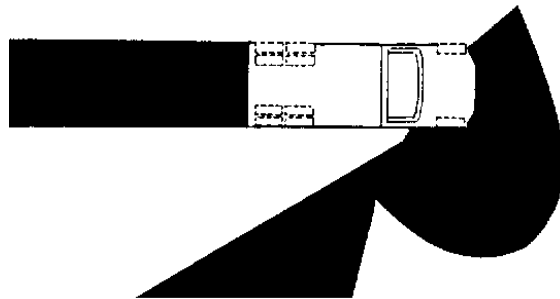
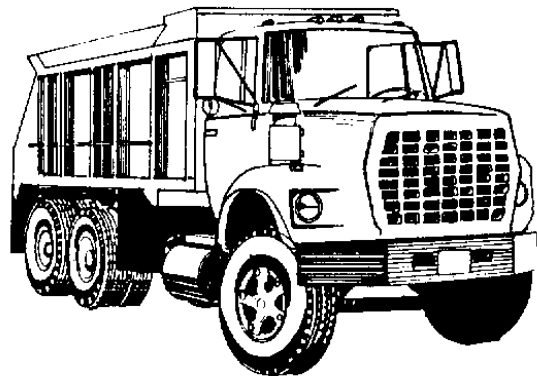
Engineering Controls

Engineering controls can be used to help protect workers. For example, warning devices such as back-up alarms and flashing lights are provided on mobile equipment to help warn workers of danger. These measures alone, however, are not always sufficient to ensure worker protection. This is especially true on projects where there is constant movement of workers and equipment and high noise levels.

Personal Protective Equipment

Persons working around mobile equipment must wear high visibility safety apparel, safety footwear, headwear, and other appropriate personal protective equipment (P.P.E.) as required on the construction project site.

Driver blind spots (dark areas)



(see next page)

SAFE Work Manitoba contact information:

Winnipeg: 204-957-SAFE (7233)

Toll-Free: 1-855-957-SAFE (7233)

Publications and resources available at: safemanitoba.com



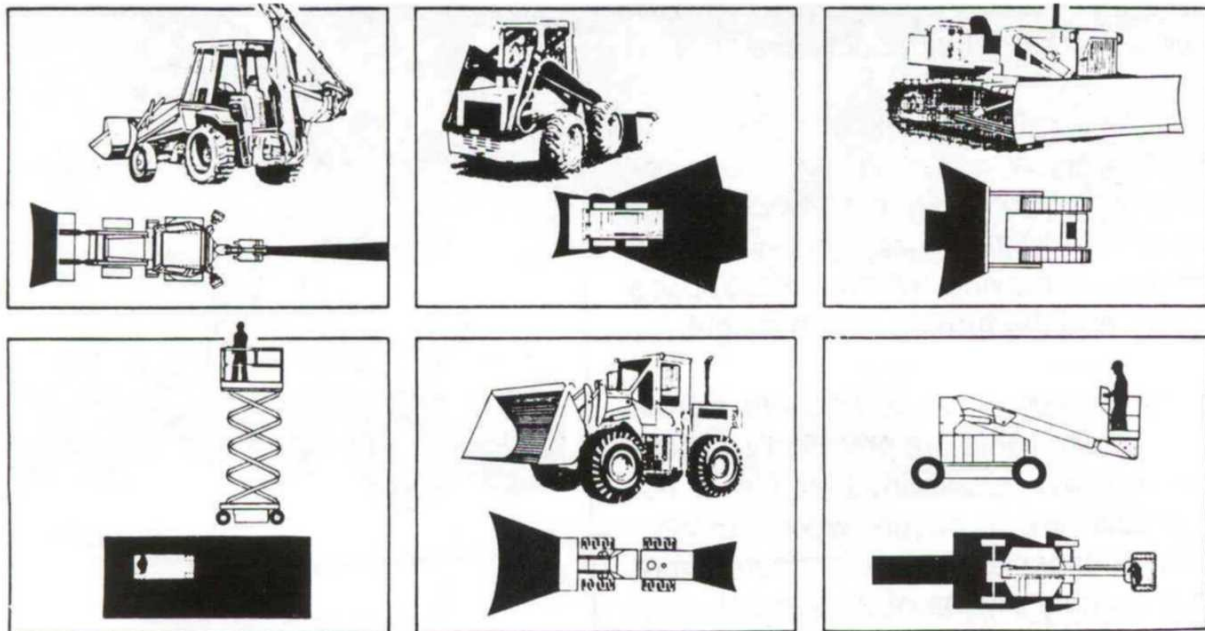
Safe Work Procedures

Proper site planning, traffic control systems and worker training are the best ways to reduce incidents where vehicles and employees must work in the same area.

When doing your pre-job risk assessment and developing safe work procedures, consider these points:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide back-up alarms on all mobile equipment. • Whenever possible, plan the project to allow for drive-through operations that will limit the need for vehicles to back-up. • Reduce foot traffic in areas where mobile equipment is to be working. Establish designated travel areas, ideally with barricades or other means to set apart from work locations. • If you must have workers and mobile equipment working in the same area, establish a traffic control system. Where you have heavy traffic a signal person or traffic spotter should be designated to control traffic movement at the site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The signal person must use clearly understood hand signals or standard traffic control devices (STOP paddle, etc.). • The signal person must know driver 'blind spots' and remain at all times visible to the driver and any workers in the travel area. The signal person must make eye contact with the driver prior to signaling or changing location. • Other workers on foot must also be trained to recognize driver blind spots and avoid entering these areas. • The driver must always obey the signal person and never back up or move in congested areas without the signal person indicating the path is clear. The driver must be trained to understand all signals used by the signal person.
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Driver Blind Spots on Common Construction Vehicles (Dark Areas)



Illustrations courtesy CSAO

Reference to legal requirements under workplace safety and health legislation:

- Powered Mobile Equipment: Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Part 22

Additional workplace safety and health information available at: safemanitoba.com

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