

MOCGA Toolbox Talk

Man Versus Machine



SAFETY TIPS

WHEN YOU BET YOUR BODY AND LIVELIHOOD AGAINST THE POWER OF MACHINES AND UTILITIES, YOU WILL LOSE.

WHY ARE PEOPLE INJURED OR KILLED BY MACHINES?

- Backhoes or drill rigs contacted underground utilities inadvertently.
- Employees reached in to “clear” equipment.
- Adjusting running equipment.
- Equipment activated because lockout-tagout wasn’t used.
- Untrained and unauthorized employees were doing maintenance or using machines without permission.
- Guards were removed, missing or loose.
- The employee tripped or fell into running machinery.
- The employee didn’t fully understand the hazards of the machine.
- They don’t fully understand why guards are important.

WHY DO PEOPLE HAVE ACCIDENTS?

- They get into a hurry;
- They’re distracted by stress, problems or home life;
- They’re distracted by cell phones;
- Fatigue, poor sleep and exhaustion;
- Poor reaction time due to drug and alcohol use;
- Lack of training;
- Complacency;
- Laziness;
- Carelessness;
- Lack of mechanical aptitude;
- Weather conditions.

Introduction: The employer must warn employees that powerful industrial and construction equipment can cause serious injuries or death. Taking chances can result in losing limbs, eyesight and quality of life. Employees that routinely remove guards, reach into points-of-operation or bypass safety switches are regularly injured and killed. Remember: Never bet against a machine - the machine will always win! Discuss this safety document with all jobsite workers!

EXCUSES FOR UNSAFE ACTS OR CONDITIONS

- We done this before;
- This is the way we’ve always done it;
- There’s no money for safety equipment;
- We don’t have time;
- Nothing bad has ever happened before.

UNSAFE? YOU’LL FIND TIME AND MONEY FOR:

- Funerals
- Emergency room treatment, surgeries, recovery
- Workers compensation premium increases
- Fines, criminal penalties or civil lawsuits
- Lost customers, productivity and profitability
- Poor community reputation

DON’T RISK IT! ALWAYS MAKE SURE UNDERGROUND UTILITIES ARE CLEARLY MARKED AND PROTECTED!

1. Perform a jobsite walk-around to identify utility warning markers and any other visible signs of buried utilities.
2. Use Ticket Check to verify that all utilities have responded to your locate request
3. Photograph the jobsite and locate marks before digging
4. Conduct a jobsite walk through and advise members on the crew of underground utility locations
5. Protect all utility locate marks to avoid having to stop work to wait for remarks
6. Always excavate with care
7. Hand-dig within 2’ of the utility to prevent injury and unnecessary damage
8. Once exposed, protect utility lines from damage by wrapping and supporting them

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and the Missouri Common Ground Alliance assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a qualified safety professional.

