

MOCGA Toolbox Talk

Backhoe Safety



SAFETY TIPS

BACKHOE SAFETY BEST PRACTICES

- Operators must be trained and authorized before beginning unsupervised operation.
- Operators must read and understand the owner's manual.
- Review safety features of the backhoe including emergency shutdowns.
- Operators must know the machine's limitations, including load capacities.

PRE-SHIFT INSPECTIONS

- Contact 811 or 1-800-DIG-RITE or www.mo1call.com to have underground utilities located before beginning excavation.
- Perform a "pre-shift" inspection of the backhoe before use & check the following:
 - ◊ Tire inflation
 - ◊ Clean windshield
 - ◊ Floorboard clear of obstructions
 - ◊ Hydraulic controls function properly
 - ◊ Fluid levels full
 - ◊ No fluid leaks found
 - ◊ Backhoe brakes function
 - ◊ Backhoe outriggers function
 - ◊ Lighting and flashers work
- Report maintenance or safety concerns immediately and in writing.
- Tag "out of service" or remove keys when the machine needs repair or malfunctions.
- Always shut down the engine when dismounting backhoe.

Introduction: Backhoes are versatile and easy-to-use machines present on almost all excavation jobsites. Remember that they create a number of safety issues including struck by hazards, trench collapse, contact with underground utilities, rollover and electrocution due to contact with overhead wires. Modern backhoes are dependable and relatively easy to learn, but operators must never forget that safety is a top priority when using excavation equipment.

GENERAL SAFETY CONCERNS

- Use three-point contact when mounting or dismounting the cab.
- Check and clear the area of pedestrians
- Stop backhoe operations if a pedestrian approaches
- Turn head and check behind backhoe before backing - never assume people are out of the way!
- Do not just rely on backup alarm to work effectively in noisy environments!
- Do not carry passengers unless they are seated and wearing a seat belt.
- Never stand under elevated loads or buckets.
- Never lift an employee in a bucket.
- Keep buckets low when driving backhoe - this keeps the center of gravity low and increases operator visibility.
- Operate the backhoe with outriggers down and on stable footings.
- Slow down when approaching grades or bumpy areas-avoid being thrown.
- Always wear the seat belt. The ROPS (roll over protection system) will not protect you unless you're wearing a seat belt.
- After operation, shut down engine and lower buckets to the ground fully - never leave loads elevated.

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.

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DATE OF TRAINING	INSTRUCTOR NAME
COMPANY NAME	LOCATION OF TRAINING
PARTICIPANT NAMES	
SAFETY MEETING NOTES	