



Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

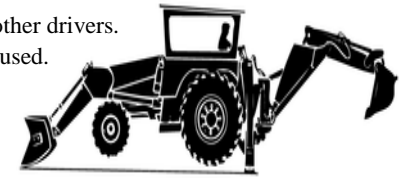
Topic 238: Backhoe Safety

Introduction: Backhoes are one of the most versatile and common pieces of heavy equipment used for excavating operations. Backhoes are built by several large manufacturers and come in a wide array of styles and sizes. The equipment discussed in this meeting is the standard wheeled tractor with a front-end loader and a hoe attachment with outriggers (such as a Case 580-780 series). These machines are relatively small, powerful, and quick; a Backhoe's multi-purpose flexibility makes it the best choice for many jobs in the industry. Like any powerful piece of heavy equipment, it is important to follow safety procedures when operating Backhoes, or working around them.



General heavy equipment safety precautions which apply to Backhoes:

- **Operator should** be trained and familiar with the piece of equipment to be used.
- **Equipment and systems** must be inspected and checked for proper operation at the start of each shift.
- **Never refuel** when the engine is running. Do not smoke while filling the fuel tank or servicing the fuel system.
- **Before starting the engine**, always check the service brakes and the parking brake to ensure they are in proper working condition.
- **Never attempt** to start or operate the Backhoe except from the operator's station.
- **Backhoes** must be equipped with rollover protection system (ROPS) and seat belts must be used.
- **Backhoes** must be equipped with an operating automatic back-up alarm and with a manually operated warning device (horn).
- **Backhoes** must have working headlights and tail-lights for night operation.
- **Keep all trash accumulation** removed from the engine and the operator's station.
- **Keep hands, floors, and controls** free of water, grease, and mud to ensure non-slip control.
- **Because of the danger** of being caught in moving parts, loose jackets, shirts, sleeves, or other items of clothing should be avoided.
- **Dust suppression** and control is required where dust seriously limits visibility. Wear breathing protection when needed.
- **All cab windows** must be kept clean for maximum visibility.
- **Prior to transporting** or "roading" a Backhoe, pin or otherwise secure Backhoe implement. Check local government regulations and use required escorts and accessory lighting to provide adequate warning for other drivers.
- **Wherever equipment operations encroach** on a public thoroughfare, a system of traffic controls must be used.
- **Flaggers are required** at all locations where barricades or warning signs cannot control moving traffic.
- **Always keep the Backhoe in gear** when going down steep grades or slopes.
- **Never dig** while employees are working under or around the Backhoe.
- **Never drive too close** to the edge of ditches or excavations.
- **Never use** the front loading bucket as a man-lift.
- **When traveling**, keep loads centered and close to the ground. Slow down before turning, especially under load.
- **Do not leave** the engine running while making adjustments or repairs unless specifically recommended.
- **Keep hands, feet**, and clothing away from power-driven parts.
- **General repairs** must not be made to powered equipment until workers are protected from movement of equipment or its parts.
- **Before repairs** are made, workers must comply with lock-out/block-out requirements.



Backhoe Facts: Most injuries involving Backhoes do not occur to the operator, but are inflicted on ground personnel working in or around the vicinity of moving machines. Always be aware of the location of persons working near your machine. Do not operate the Backhoe around personnel at speeds which would prevent the immediate stopping of any implement if needed. Do not carry ground workers anywhere in or on the machine. **REMEMBER**, they are depending on your skill and judgment, as are all personnel in the immediate work-zone.

Conclusion: Backhoes are an excellent labor-saving piece of equipment! However, careless operation may result in mistakes costing time, money, or even life and limb. Follow these Backhoe operating guidelines to perform digging operations efficiently and safely.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures: _____
 (My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

Foreman/Supervisor's Signature: _____

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.