

safety matters

Construction
Toolbox Talks

From your safety partners at **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd**

Safety Around Earth Movers

Because of their size and mobility, earth movers present a host of unique risks on the jobsite. Moreover, when injuries occur in or around earth-moving machinery, they tend to be serious – and sometimes even fatal. To prevent accidents and injuries on the worksite, follow these safety guidelines.

Plan Ahead to Prevent Accidents

Your commitment to safety begins before you even step into the driver's seat. Thorough preparation and planning can greatly reduce your chance of accident or injury. Earth-moving machine operators should:

- Check the work area for hazards such as boulders, tree roots or overhead power lines. If power lines are present, maintain 3 metres of clearance at all times.
- Take note of ground conditions, especially if mud, snow, ice or surface water is present.
- Inspect your equipment prior to use. Look for loose or missing bolts or pins, oil or coolant leaks, and any signs of damage to wheels, tyres, hydraulic systems or other moving parts.
- Check the brake system and brake lights to ensure they are fully operational.
- To ensure safe visibility, make sure the windscreen and mirrors are free of dirt and debris.

Safe Operating Procedures

Earth movers can cause serious damage if proper operating precautions are not followed:

- Stay seated with your seatbelt fastened at all times while operating the earth mover.
- Wear any and all required personal safety equipment, including safety glasses, gloves, helmet, ear protection and proper footwear.
- Do not exceed manufacturer's recommended load limits.
- Avoid sharp turns on uneven terrain, which can cause the vehicle to become unsteady and potentially flip over.

General Safety Policies

- Make sure all earth-moving vehicles are equipped with rollover protection.
- Maintain back-up alarms for equipment with limited rear visibility.
- Train workers to stay clear of backing or turning vehicles with rotating cabs.
- Verify that all machine operators have proper training and experience.

If you have any questions or concerns about earth mover safety, do not hesitate to contact your supervisor

Earth movers present a host of unique risks on the job site, but thorough preparation and planning can greatly reduce your chance of accident or injury.



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