When construction equipment is rumbling around a project, you’ve got to watch your step. If both construction workers and equipment operators keep their eyes open, no one’s going to get hurt. Following are ways to help you maintain a healthy respect for cranes, dozers, excavators and trucks:

- Never take for granted that equipment operators see you.

- Never depend on hearing a horn or other warning signals; it might sometimes be lost in the general noise around a project or in a shop.

- Equipment shouldn’t be backed without someone to check the blind spots and give signals; nevertheless, keep in the clear whenever equipment is traveling backwards, as that’s when most equipment accidents happen.

- Swinging counterweights often create a dangerous pinch-point. Don’t ever get into a spot where you could get squeezed in between.

- Never hitch a ride on the running board. It’s fatally easy to fall under moving equipment.

- No riding on top of loaded trucks; the load might shift, and you might not have enough overhead clearance in a tight spot.

- If you’re riding in a transport vehicle to a job, or between jobs, keep your arms, legs and all parts of your body inside the unit.

- Never walk alongside moving equipment. Keep in the clear in case the unit suddenly turns your way, slides or the load shifts.

- Stay out from under loads on cranes or hoists. Use established walkways and beware of shortcuts.

- If the boom of a unit ever hits a power line, keep away from the frame of the unit and the load cables.

- Never lubricate, clean or work on a machine that is in operation. Stop the machine. If you have to remove a guard, replace it as soon as the work’s done.

Construction equipment can be the source of serious injuries when care is not taken. Always assume that the operator doesn’t see you – that he doesn’t even know you’re around. Always figure that it’s up to you to keep in the clear.
Our safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are made solely to assist your organization in reducing hazards and the potential of hazards and accidents. These recommendations were developed from conditions observed and information provided at the time of our visit. They do not attempt to identify every possible loss potential, hazard or risk, nor do they guarantee that workplace accidents will be prevented. These safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are not a substitute for ongoing, well-researched internal safety and risk management programs. This report does not warrant that the property inspected and its operations are compliant with any law, rule or regulation.

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