

# Toolbox Talks

## Roller Safety

Workers who operate or work around roller/compactors are at risk of injury from a machine rollover or being struck by the machine or its components. Injuries and deaths can be prevented through wider use of rollover protective structures (ROPS) and seat belts on roller/compactors, training, establishing and adhering to safe work practices and procedures, and using appropriate personal protective equipment.

The two common causes of injury: (1) machine rollovers and (2) being struck by the moving machine.

### Controls

Employers, manufacturers, and rental establishments should take the following steps to protect workers from injury while working with ride-on roller/compactors.

### Site Set-Up

- ✓ Conduct daily hazard assessments to identify potential hazards.
- ✓ Minimize the presence of workers on foot near machinery.
- ✓ Provide all workers on-site with training in safety practices/procedures and in hazards they may encounter at the site.
- ✓ Use barriers to separate workers, pedestrians, and vehicles from moving equipment.
- ✓ Use visual aids to identify edges.
- ✓ Continually evaluate your hazard assessment to address changing conditions at the worksite.
- ✓ Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as high-visibility reflective vests and hard hats, and ensure that workers use and maintain them.
- ✓ Use machinery equipped with ROPS and seat-belts and ensure their use. Replace seatbelts if they are damaged, worn, or too small.
- ✓ Contact equipment manufacturers or equipment dealers to determine whether approved retrofit ROPS and seatbelts are available for machinery without these safety features.
- ✓ Ensure that machines are not operated on grades steeper than those specified by the manufacturer.
- ✓ Establish a documented maintenance program for all machinery.
- ✓ Replace worn or damaged warning labels on machinery.
- ✓ Ensure that operators' manuals are present on all machinery or available to the operator.
- ✓ Make sure that all the manufacturers' safety features are operational.
- ✓ Ensure that all site workers comply with all applicable requirements of machine warning labels and operator manuals.

### Equipment Operator

- ✓ Follow manufacturers' specifications and recommendations.
- ✓ Check work areas for workers on foot in the machine's path before moving the machine or changing the direction of travel. Use spotters or barriers where necessary. Be aware of equipment blind spots.
- ✓ Be aware of the hazards associated with operating machinery on non-level surfaces. A

competent person should continuously evaluate grades on which machinery is being operated to prevent rollover.

- ✓ Do not operate machinery without the ROPS and seat belts supplied by the manufacturer. Do not remove the ROPS or seatbelts.
- ✓ Wear the seat belt and do not jump from the equipment in the event of a rollover. Keep knees and elbows close to the body, hold on firmly, and lean away from the impact to avoid being crushed by the ROPS.
- ✓ When capable, ensure that when rolling edges, the seat is positioned parallel to the edge to ensure visibility when working in close proximity to leading edges.
- ✓ Conduct Daily Field Employee Report (Pre-Trip), visual and operational checks on all equipment systems and operating controls before working the machine.
- ✓ Make sure that all the manufacturers' safety features are operational (Back up alarms, beacons etc)
- ✓ Comply with all warning labels.

### **Other Site Workers**

- ✓ Identify and avoid unsafe conditions and follow required safe work practices that apply to the work environment.
- ✓ Be aware of the hazards and blind spots associated with working near moving equipment.
- ✓ Before each work shift begins, review and confirm communications signals to be used between equipment operators and workers on foot.
- ✓ Do not approach machinery without first signaling the operator to shut down the equipment and receiving acknowledgment from the operator.
- ✓ Do not ride as a passenger on rollers or similar mobile equipment.
- ✓ Do not rest or lean against any equipment.
- ✓ Wear PPE that is provided, such as high visibility reflective vests and hard hats, to increase visibility.

### **Equipment Rentals**

- ✓ Include only ROPS- and seatbelt-equipped machines when renting.
- ✓ Provide training for customers upon delivery, when necessary.
- ✓ Provide customers with machine-specific safety brochures.
- ✓ Ensure that operators' manuals are located on machines or are available to operators.

**\* At no time is an operator or worker to use cell phones, I-pods, MP3's or any other hand held devices on a job site. The exception to this rule is in the event of an emergency\***

### **Questions to Generate Discussion**

- What do you do when rolling on an edge?
- What is the procedure for communicating and reporting malfunctions and deficiencies for all equipment? Is it being used effectively?
- Where are the blind spots on equipment that you are currently using on your job site?

