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How to Avoid Heavy Equipment Accidents

To avoid struck-by or caught-in accidents caused by heavy equipment, being aware of your surroundings at all times is a huge part of staying safe.

When you know exactly what is going on around you, you can be aware of your way out as well as avoiding heavy equipment. Making sure that your coworkers know when you are in the area is also extremely helpful as they then know your location so they can avoid incidents as well.

1. Do not Take Unnecessary Risks:

Sometimes short cuts seem like a good idea, but when working around heavy machinery, it can be a recipe for disaster. Utilizing the safety protocols, we put in place is for the good of yourself as well as the good of your coworkers. Safety protocols outlined through toolbox talks or your construction equipment management app should be followed. Reducing the chance of having accidents by not taking unnecessary risks is a simple way to promote safety.

2. Only Use Machinery for Which you are Properly Trained:

Even machines that are properly operated are at risk of malfunctioning. It can be tempting to use equipment that may make your job easier, but if you have not been professionally trained in it, please do not use it.

There is proper training for all heavy equipment, and oftentimes a worker must obtain proper licensure and hands-on training before being able to operate.

Failure to learn how to use a machine before operating heavy equipment can increase the risk of injury and even death. By avoiding using machines which you are not trained in, it is an excellent way to reduce the risk of injury.

3. Wear the Proper Safety Gear:

Working around heavy machinery requires wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) such as helmets, steel toe boots, and vests, and when you make sure you are wearing these items, you can protect yourself from dangerous objects.

Workers who are around any type of heavy machinery that requires safety equipment must make sure to always wear proper safety gear.

Failure to wear the correct gear can leave workers in dangers that generally can be avoided. It is extremely important for workers to always remember that it is better to exercise caution and wear too much safety gear as opposed to not enough.

Appropriate safety gear often includes:

- Earplugs
- Goggles
- Hard hats
- Sharp-toed shoes

By utilizing the above safety best practices, you can reduce your own risk of injury or accident and help reduce it in your coworkers as well.

By working together, we can eliminate many of the injuries that occur when working with heavy machinery.

Due diligence goes a long way.