

Vehicle Safety on the Site



Vehicles account for a large share of accidental injuries and deaths on construction sites. Like highway accidents, most of these accidents can be avoided by simply paying attention and knowing the rules for using vehicles on a worksite. The traffic rules and speed limits at the site are in place to make your job safer. All drivers and operators are expected to follow them.

OPERATING VEHICLES

- 🚚 Only workers with documented training should operate vehicles and equipment on site.
- 🚚 On a sloping surface or hill, always drive up and down rather than across. If you must drive across a steep hill, you can reduce your chances of rolling by attaching the vehicle with a wire rope to another vehicle that's stabilized at the top of the hill.
- 🚚 When traveling downhill, keep the speed under control with low gears and brakes so you can stop at any time.
- 🚚 Back up only when you're certain that no one's behind you. If you're not sure, get out and check or use a guide.

TRANSPORTING WORKERS

- 🚚 The passenger load limit for flatbed trucks, dump trucks, pickup trucks and the like is no more than two workers outside the cab, unless the truck has rails or sides.
- 🚚 Passengers outside the cab must stay immediately behind it and have suitable grab irons on the cab for handholds.
- 🚚 Workers may not ride on top of side rails, running boards or fenders, or with legs hanging over the sides.
- 🚚 Any vehicle that regularly transports workers once a day or more must have secure seats with safety belts, railings and steps for getting on and off.
- 🚚 Never climb onto a vehicle while it's in motion or ride on heavy equipment anywhere but in a seat.

MAINTAINING AND REPAIRING VEHICLES

- 🚚 Vehicles must be maintained on a regular, documented schedule kept on file.
- 🚚 Before you take a vehicle from the storage area, always check the brakes, steering and warning signal, and use the vehicle only if everything checks out.
- 🚚 Report loose bolts, fluid and air leaks, broken steps, handholds and windows and so forth.
- 🚚 Clean windshields and mirrors and keep the cab and running boards free of loose items, debris and grease.
- 🚚 Follow safety procedures when repairing a vehicle.
- 🚚 Use tire cages for inflating truck and equipment tires in the repair shop. If you must inflate a tire in the field, make sure you're in the clear and watching the rim during inflation.
- 🚚 Always shut down vehicles for repairs, adjustments and lubrication, and set the parking brake.
- 🚚 Always place chocks around the wheels when parking on sloping surfaces.
- 🚚 All equipment such as bulldozers, forklifts, backhoes and tractors should have all blades, hoists, buckets, scoops, etc. lowered to the ground before you work on them.
- 🚚 If you must work under a raised dump truck body, make sure it is locked in the raised position. The same goes for working under bulldozer blades and carryall closing gates.
- 🚚 When you refuel, do so away from welding operations or machinery that creates sparks. Stop all engines in the area and don't smoke.
- 🚚 Whenever you're not sure about safety procedures for operating or maintaining your vehicle, ask your supervisor.

Vehicle Safety Inspection Checklist

Vehicles account for a large share of the accidental injuries and deaths on construction sites. But most of these accidents can be avoided by obeying traffic rules and speed limits and by performing frequent and thorough safety inspections of all work vehicles. Use the following checklist as a starting point for your own vehicle safety inspection program. Be sure to add to the list any special vehicle equipment that you feel should be inspected. Remember to inspect all vehicles, including heavy equipment such as bulldozers and backhoes.

ITEMS TO BE INSPECTED:

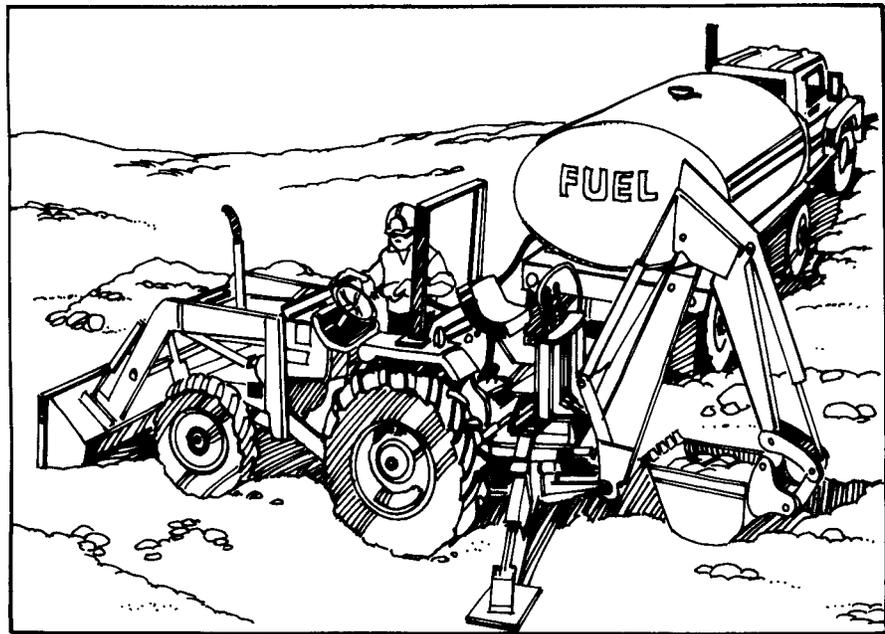
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> lights
(head, tail, side, warning, interior) | <input type="checkbox"/> reverse alarm
(for backing up) | <input type="checkbox"/> bolts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> windshields and other windows | <input type="checkbox"/> brakes
(including parking brake) | <input type="checkbox"/> hooks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> windshield wipers | <input type="checkbox"/> steering | <input type="checkbox"/> chains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mirrors
(side and rearview) | <input type="checkbox"/> clutch | <input type="checkbox"/> booms |
| <input type="checkbox"/> tires
(air pressure, wear and damage, lug bolts) | <input type="checkbox"/> gear shift | <input type="checkbox"/> buckets, scoops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bumpers
(front and back) | <input type="checkbox"/> rails, handholds | <input type="checkbox"/> blades |
| <input type="checkbox"/> running boards, steps | <input type="checkbox"/> safety belts, harnesses | <input type="checkbox"/> hoists |
| <input type="checkbox"/> seats | <input type="checkbox"/> heater, defroster | <input type="checkbox"/> forks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> turn signals
(front and back) | <input type="checkbox"/> air conditioning | <input type="checkbox"/> guards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hazard signals | <input type="checkbox"/> fluid levels
(brake, steering, oil, water, windshield, hydraulic, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> gates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> horn | <input type="checkbox"/> radiator leaks | <input type="checkbox"/> straps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> warning siren | <input type="checkbox"/> hoses | <input type="checkbox"/> braces |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> cables | <input type="checkbox"/> blocks |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> connectors | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Fill 'er Up—Safely

On a construction site, it's usually not practical to bring the equipment to the gas station. So, you bring the fuel to the equipment. Because gasoline is one of the most explosive of all flammable liquids, you need to take special precautions in transporting and using it.

When Fueling Up...

- 🚛 **Shut down the equipment before you fuel it.**
- 🚛 **Wipe up or report spills immediately.**
- 🚛 **Never smoke while fueling.**
- 🚛 **Fuel up in well-ventilated areas and away from flammables or ignition sources, such as sparks, heat, static electricity and faulty wiring.**



When large quantities of fuel are needed:

- 🚛 A self-propelled tank vehicle is the safest way to transport fuel.
- 🚛 Portable tanks with hand-operated pumps can be used in some cases, if the terrain permits.
- 🚛 Position tanks on stable ground and block and protect them from rolling when fueling.
- 🚛 The tanks don't need to be bonded or grounded as long as the metal nozzle is in contact with the fuel tank while it's being filled.
- 🚛 Take special care to avoid spilling.
- 🚛 Drain the hose after fueling so fuel won't be spilled in the next fueling operation.
- 🚛 Never position the fueling tank so that the gas must travel through more than 15 feet of unsupported hose, or where the hose must be pulled tight to reach the tank being filled.
- 🚛 When they're not in use, park portable tanks out of the way of moving equipment, with wheels blocked if the ground isn't level.

For smaller fueling operations:

- 🚛 Be sure the container has a sturdy carrying handle with a flexible metal spout small enough to fit in the tank opening.
- 🚛 Only use a container made for carrying fuel.

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