



SAFETY ALERT

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Equipment Pre-Use Walk Around Inspection

Date of Event: 5/16/2024

Location: Pojoaque

Craft(s) Involved: Equipment Operator & Pipe Fitters

Description of Incident:

- While assisting with moving a pipe to connect it to a manhole, a near miss incident occurred involving the operation of a mini excavator. One individual, in a rush, entered the mini excavator without properly checking their blind side (right side). Subsequently, they initiated the movement of the mini excavator's arm, extending it to their right side without ensuring the area was clear. At the time, another individual was standing approximately 4 to 5 feet on the right side of the mini excavator.
- Fortunately, an incident was averted due to prompt intervention. An observer immediately alerted the operator and the individual nearby, preventing potential serious bodily injury.
- The incident highlights the critical importance of operators thoroughly checking their surroundings before operating heavy equipment. Had pre-operation precautions been taken, such as assessing blind spots and signaling the machine's operation, the near miss could have been avoided entirely.
- This incident serves as a reminder of the need for heightened vigilance and adherence to safety protocols when operating heavy machinery, ensuring the safety of all personnel on-site.

Corrective Actions:

- Conducting a walk-around inspection is crucial before operating any heavy equipment. This inspection allows operators to identify any potential hazards, mechanical issues, or obstacles that may affect safe operation. Failure to perform this inspection increases the risk of accidents, injuries, and damage to equipment or property. And it is imperative that all equipment is inspected using the applicable inspection form on the safety support center.
- Remember, safety is our top priority. By taking the time to conduct a proper walk-around inspection, we can prevent accidents and ensure a safe working environment for everyone.

Summary: Operating heavy equipment without conducting a thorough walk-around inspection poses significant safety risks for operators and those nearby. It is crucial for operators to inspect equipment for potential hazards, mechanical issues, and obstacles before each use to prevent accidents, injuries, and damage. All operators must adhere to mandatory walk-around inspection procedures, checking for fluid leaks, tire condition, brakes, lights, and loose components. Safety training and adherence to safe operating procedures are essential. By prioritizing safety and conducting proper inspections, we can maintain a safe working environment for everyone on-site.