



Safe Equipment Operations

Introduction:

Safe equipment operation is crucial to prevent accidents, injuries, and fatalities on the job site. Whether it's heavy machinery or hand tools, understanding proper operating procedures and safety protocols ensures a safer environment for everyone. Today's talk focuses on key safety measures to follow when working with equipment.

Key Points:

1. Inspect Equipment Before Use:

- Always perform a thorough pre-use inspection. Look for visible damage, loose parts, leaks, or signs of wear. The inspection form is located at www.iws.support.
- Check all safety guards, lights, alarms, and emergency stops to ensure they are functioning.
- Never operate equipment that is defective or not properly maintained.

2. Use Proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Wear PPE appropriate to the type of equipment you're using (e.g., hardhats, safety glasses, gloves, steel-toed boots, hearing protection).

3. Follow Manufacturer Guidelines:

- Always follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and recommended maintenance schedules.
- Use the right equipment for the job. Never modify or use equipment in ways not intended by the manufacturer.

4. Ensure Proper Training:

- Only trained and authorized personnel should operate equipment.
- If you're unfamiliar with a piece of equipment, ask for training before use.

5. Maintain Clear Communication:

- Use established spotters and hand signals or radios for communication, especially when visibility or noise limits verbal communication.
- Be aware of your surroundings and keep clear of other workers, especially in confined or busy areas.

6. Practice Safe Operation:

- Operate equipment at safe speeds and avoid taking shortcuts.
- Stay focused and avoid distractions while operating machinery.
- Always stop machinery completely before making adjustments or repairs.
- Never operate machinery under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or when fatigued.

7. Maintain a Safe Work Area:

- Keep the work area free from debris, tools, or materials that could cause tripping or falling hazards.
- Make sure the ground is stable and dry where machinery is operated to avoid slips and accidents.
- Use warning signs and barriers to designate equipment operating zones and restrict access to authorized personnel only.
- Be aware of your surroundings (e.g., overhead obstructions, tree branches, protruding equipment)