



Mobile Equipment Training Guidebook

From the Field

By Tony Smith, ISRI Safety Outreach Director

In the busy scrap recycling industry we see forklifts, skidsteers, trucks, railcars, and even customer vehicles moving through our facilities every day. The veterans in our industry know that this “organized chaos” is just another part of daily business in the scrap yard. But to the new truck driver, the temporary employee, the new buyer, or anyone else who finds themselves in the busy world of scrap we have an obligation to make sure that they understand where the hazards and blind spots are. Blind spots in a scrap recycling facility can be caused by stacks or piles of material, stationary equipment, or mobile equipment. To the mobile equipment operator these blind spots are something they understand and deal with every day. Most mobile equipment operators know and understand the blind spots on their equipment. But those operators who I have met in my travels all tell me that on a weekly and sometimes daily basis they will have someone or some vehicle approach or pass by their equipment on the blind side. This dangerous action can lead to serious injury if the hazard is not fully understood and respected by all.

Using the mobile equipment at your jobsite might make you an operator. But knowing how to recognize and respond appropriately to hazards while using the equipment in a safe and efficient manner everyday will make you a professional operator. Strive to be a professional.

Please take the time to use this material or other safety related materials that you may have to educate people in your facility about how to recognize blind spots and how to approach and pass by mobile equipment. These important lessons should be passed on to anyone who works, walks, or finds themselves around mobile equipment in the scrap recycling environment.



Planning for the Job: Hazard Assessment

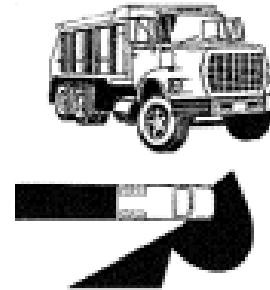
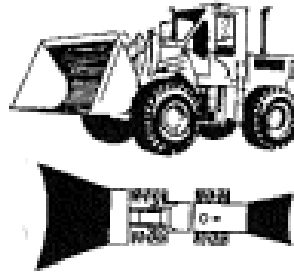
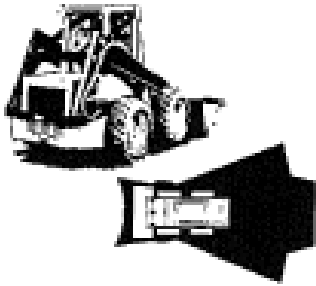
- Do you have the right equipment?
- Are there hazards to be avoided?
- Is the ground area strong enough to support the equipment?
- Are there any unusual weather conditions
- Is the area clear of people?
- Did you do a pre-operational inspection?

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Equipment Blind Spots



Remember that your equipment has many blind spots. Do not operate your machine until you **KNOW** that no person **OR** obstruction is nearby. **ALWAYS** be sure to take the time to stop and look!

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Safety Traveling Guidelines

- Always wear your seatbelt (NO EXCEPTIONS)
- Always travel at safe speeds
- Always look in the direction of travel
- If load is obstructing your view, travel backwards
- Make sure of safe clearances at all times
- Travel slowly on wet or icy surfaces
- Be cautious of material protruding from sides of load
- Never block exits, fire extinguishers, or electrical boxes with your lift truck
- Always look behind you before backing
- If at any time a powered industrial truck is found to be in need of repair, defective, or any way unsafe, the truck shall be taken out of service until it has been restored to safe operating condition

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Mobile Equipment Safety Quiz

1. The hand holds and steps provided by the manufacturer should always be used to safely mount and dismount a material handler.

True False

2. A mobile equipment operator shall accept an emergency stop signal from anyone.

True False

3. An operator should do this before operating an unfamiliar piece of equipment:
 - a. Be sure all personal belongings are stored in material handler
 - b. Read and understand operators manual for material handler
 - c. Start the machine immediately and try the controls
 - d. Exceed the machine's capacity

4. What are lubricants?
 - a. Friction increasing substances
 - b. Friction decreasing substances
 - c. Permanent water repellants
 - d. Permanent corrosion inhibitor

5. Why is a daily inspection performed on mobile equipment?
 - a. To satisfy a legal requirement
 - b. To keep the operator busy
 - c. A supervisory requirement
 - d. To ensure that it is safe for operation

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6. When a pedestrian is approaching the working radius of mobile equipment in operation what should they do?
 - a. Use caution as they pass by the area quickly
 - b. Trust the operators to see them
 - c. Hope for the best
 - d. Wait for the operator to invite them into and past the operating radius of the machine

7. Open bay doorways are an example of:
 - a. Overhead hazards
 - b. Lateral hazards
 - c. Potential accident zones
 - d. All of the above

8. Who is responsible for visitors and pedestrians in the facility?
 - a. The plant manager
 - b. The area supervisor
 - c. The equipment operators
 - d. All of the above

9. Who has the responsibility for safely operating mobile equipment at your plant?
 - a. Supervisor
 - b. Laborer
 - c. Mobile Equipment Operator
 - d. Sub-contractor

10. All lift equipment has limitations.
True False

11. Proper ground support is a major part of any mobile equipment lifting system.
True False



12. What is the essential component of any Preventive Maintenance program?
- a. Computer systems
 - b. Operators
 - c. Time between maintenance items
 - d. Proper inspection of equipment
13. Federal OSHA regulations require at least ten (10) feet* clearance from lines carrying up to 50,000 volts. (*Your State OSHA plan or Company Regulations may require distances further than the Federal OSHA requirements.)
- True False

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Mobile Equipment Safety Quiz Answers

1. TRUE: Many accidents and injuries happen from people climbing on and off of mobile equipment. You must use the 3-point rule when climbing up and/or down anything.
2. TRUE: Anyone may give an emergency stop signal to the operator. However, the operator must only listen to ONE signal person for all other signals.
3. B – Always read and understand the operators manual. If the information is not completely clear then it is important for the operator to ask questions. And it is important for the trainer to remain in contact with his/her trainees.
4. B – The mobile equipment needs to be greased properly. See OEM manual for further instructions.
5. D – Safety
6. D – Wait for the operator to invite them into and past the operating radius of the machine.
7. D – All of the above
8. D – All of the above. The visitor or pedestrian (who could be a company employee) must also be responsible for themselves at all times. But because they may not be entirely familiar with your facility you have to watch them closely at all times.
9. C – The operator is the responsible person in the seat. They have the opportunity to do the job safely or not at all.
10. TRUE
11. TRUE

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12. D – Proper inspection means that the operator/inspector knows what they are looking at and what they are looking for.
13. TRUE: All operators, grounds men, supervisors, and managers must understand the power of electricity. Know your surroundings and stay away from the hazards!