

# Safety-Gram

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### Safety Precautions When Operating Heavy Equipment

What precautions and measures do YOU take to ensure that safety is a priority when operating equipment?

*Fatalities involving heavy equipment are on the rise, but following specific safety measures can help workers avoid serious injuries. Check out these 5 tips for equipment operators:*

#### 1. Don't Mix Mobile Phones and Heavy Equipment

Operating equipment and using your cell phone is a **very dangerous combination**. Cell phones cause distractions by taking your mind off the task, your hands off the wheel, and your eyes off the road.

Distracted equipment operators are a danger to **themselves and others**.

#### 2. Beware of Blind Spots

All equipment has blind spots and generally **the bigger the equipment, the bigger the blind spot**.

Using mirrors on equipment is a must, but mirrors don't eliminate blind spots. Always **walk around your equipment** before getting in the cab. Make sure all audible warning devices are functional and always **sound the horn** before moving the equipment.



#### 3. Wear Your Seat Belt!

Equipment operators must **always wear a seat belt**. Equipment overturning or overtraveling a berm happens frequently on mine sites. When this happens, **your chance of survival** is greatly increased if you are **wearing your seat belt**. In such an event, ride it out in the cab. **Do not jump out!**

#### 4. Use the 3-Point Rule for Mounting and Dismounting

Many operators have been hurt or killed due to **carelessly mounting or dismounting heavy equipment**. Never jump on or off heavy equipment and never carry anything while mounting or dismounting equipment.

Remember the rule of **3-point contact**: use two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand to **mount or dismount safely**.

#### 5. Do Not Operate Machinery Unless Trained

Operating heavy equipment is a **demanding job**, even for seasoned operators. Workers should only operate equipment that they are **trained to operate**. There's **no substitute for experience**, but we must start with training. So how do we train so we can gain experience? We train through **attention to detail**.

