

# Mobile Equipment

## KEY SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR MOBILE EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS.



## TOOLBOX TALKS



In 2025, approximately half of all fatal incidents were attributed to powered haulage and machinery. These incidents generally involved the use of mobile equipment such as front-end loaders, mobile drills, skid steers, and more. While these trends are slowly decreasing, these incidents consistently remain the highest percentage of incidents and serve as a constant reminder of the need for vigilance.

### Several considerations remain a theme across these incidents:

#### Understand Equipment Limitations

- Train employees on each unique piece of equipment in operation, including blind spots, swing radius, and safety devices.
- Review the load chart: Ensure operators understand load radius and limits of lifting equipment.
- Check all equipment to confirm it functions correctly and replace any damaged or worn parts.



**June 15, 2025**

A miner died after the telehandler that he had been operating overturned onto him while he was outside the equipment moving a water pump suction line.

#### Communication

- Ensure communication protocols are established and followed. Request permission before approaching heavy equipment.
- Use a spotter when vision is obstructed by a load.
- Maintain verbal and visual contact with others. Make sure radio batteries are charged and consistent hand signals are used.
- Stop work if visibility is lost or communication is unclear.

**Discuss:** What are the communication expectations for this scope of work? What tasks require the use of a spotter?



**January 30, 2025**

A miner died when a front-end loader operator unknowingly lowered a pallet of stone onto him.

#### Changing Conditions

- Inspect haul roads, highwalls, and other key areas for thaw soft spots, undermined edges, ice lenses. Make changes such as rerouting and reducing traffic, regrading travel surfaces and adjusting the work plan.
- Operate equipment perpendicular to the slope and understand available load stabilizing devices.



**February 12, 2025**

A miner died when the ground beneath the drilling rig he was operating failed, causing it to overturn and fall off the highwall.

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## Suggested Activity

With a piece of equipment that has been parked, powered down, and locked out and tagged out, ask the group to identify potential hazards. Has the equipment been inspected that day? Is the fire extinguisher inspection up to date? Is the mirror properly adjusted? Do both the operator and the crew know the blind spots? Alternatively, evaluate hazards in a staged photo of a worksite.

## Notes



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