

# Don't get crushed

*Hazards include moving equipment as well as materials being moved*



**Stay out of operator blind spots**



**Stay clear of material being moved. You can be crushed by the material if it falls or comes loose.**

## Blind spots

All construction vehicles and equipment have blind spots where the operator can't see. Rear-view mirrors don't show everything.

- Learn where the blind spots are for different kinds of equipment. Jump in a cab and look for yourself. Then, when you're working, stay away from these areas.
- Make sure you make eye contact with the operator whenever you approach a machine or it approaches you. The operator now knows to look out for you. Signal the operator when you're moving to a different location.
- Wear a high-visibility vest.
- Don't walk on vehicle paths if you can avoid it.
- Organize the site so that vehicles can "drive through" and don't need to back up.

- If a vehicle must back up and the operator's view is blocked, there must be a signaller (see article on page 8).

For more information on backing up and worker safety, get CSAO's *Construction Health and Safety Manual* (M029).

## Noise & rough conditions<sup>1</sup>

You may work beside heavy equipment every day, but this familiarity can be your enemy.

For example, it's easy to ignore the beeping of back-up alarms because you hear them all the time.

Construction noise can also drown out these alarms.

When operators or drivers begin to move their machines, the engine noise can drown out other sounds, including shouts to stop. If you're caught in the wrong place and yell for help, the noise can prevent people from hearing you.

Don't think that you can easily jump out of a vehicle's way. Rough site conditions (mud, work material, debris, uneven or rutted ground) make it difficult to move quickly when you're on foot.

## Crushed by materials

Two workers died this year after being crushed by material they were unloading from trucks.

- Use blocking when unloading materials to make sure the load doesn't shift or fall.
- Stay clear of vehicles transporting materials.
- Make sure materials are tied down or otherwise secured when transporting them.

<sup>1</sup> With information from "Staying on track," *OHS Canada* magazine, January/February 2006.