

Mobile Equipment

As part of our day-to-day operations, we run equipment and vehicles in a number of congested work areas. When you are faced with maneuvering equipment in tight areas, consider alternative methods to completing your task.

If it is necessary to maneuver a piece of equipment or vehicle into a congested work area, there must be a clear understanding between the equipment operator and the spotter(s) as to

- Where the equipment is to move,
- What the terrain is like,
- Where the spotter(s) will be,
- What are the hazards for the area to be travelled,
- Who is the main spotter,
- And what the hand/arm signals mean.

Only competent people should be put into the spotting position.

Spotter

- A worker(s) assigned to the task of watching the travel path of a piece of equipment when the operator does not have a clear vision (ie. backing up, passing through a narrow opening etc.)
- This worker will provide signals to the operator to avoid making contact with other objects, or driving onto unstable ground, or too close to an edge.

Designated signaler

- If the task requires more than one spotter, one worker will be designated as the person who provides the information directly to the operator of the piece of equipment.

Pause for Safety

- Hazards**
- Slip, trip, or fall
 - Contact with equipment / vehicle
 - Flying rocks
 - Bank stability
 - Equipment Damage
 - Third party equipment damage

PPE



Additional PPE



Controls

- Equipment you may encounter**
- Loader
 - Rock Truck

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- Skid Steer
 - Concrete Mixers

Strategies and Procedures

Before moving equipment

- Both operator and spotter(s) will walk through and survey the area to be crossed and identify any hazards that might exist, including low overheads, narrow side or underneath clearances, obstacles and excavations.
- Perform radio check(s) to ensure radio(s) are working properly
- Plan an escape route for the possibility that a problem occurs and the spotter(s) need to move out of the way quickly.
- Ensure operators and spotters have a clear understanding of the communication signals in use.

If working in the area with power lines, maintain a minimum distance of 7 meters from power lines.

- IF work requires equipment to come within less than 7 meters of an energized power line; the power line operator must be contacted to determine the operating voltage of the line.
- Refer to OH&S Schedule 4 for Safe Limits of Approach.

If using more than one spotter:

- The designated signaler will receive signals from the additional spotter(s) then relay those signals to the operator.
- The operator will rely on only the signals from the designated signaler.
- The operator will obey a stop signal from anyone, not just the designated signaler.
- All spotters AND the operator will be informed and understand these instructions.

During the move

- The designated signaler is to ensure line-of-sight with the operator at all times during the task. Spotters will know and use proper hand signals.
- If the operator loses sight of the designated signaler, the operator **MUST** stop moving immediately and commence movement only when the designated signaler has been repositioned.
- If at any time, the operator has any confusion as to the designated signaler's directions, the operator **MUST** come to a stop and only commence movement after directions have been clarified.
- If effective communication is in doubt, the designated signaler is to stop and approach equipment when safe to do so for clarification.

Ensure ground conditions are capable of safely supporting equipment weight.

- Stop equipment a minimum of one meter from crest of trenches or slopes.
- Use caution when spotting trucks on grade. (one to one rule)

Be aware and stay clear of pinch points.

