

# Welcome to *The Hard Hat Training Series*



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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series. Excavating is recognized as one of the most dangerous construction-related operations, and when water is involved the dangers increase. For this reason, today we're going to talk about the set-up and safe operation of amphibious excavators, also called marsh buggies, floating excavators, or swamp buggies.

For the sake of this training we will call amphibious excavators just excavators. These incredible machines are used for dredging, erosion control, maintenance of rivers and other bodies of water, clearing silted trenches, cleanup measures after a major flood, as well as various tasks in swamplands. Their ability to operate in water, soft sands and soil without sinking or getting stuck make them perfect for these tasks.





During this training, we'll take a look at the functionality and components of an excavator. We'll also show you why it's important to conduct a thorough pre-shift inspection each day before using the equipment.







We will look at two critical components of operation: entering/exiting the water and stability while traveling and operating.



We'll emphasize the importance of planning each job and setting up the machine and site properly to avoid hazards and obstacles around the worksite.





Finally, we will also touch on some of the common hazards associated with excavators and show you how to recognize, avoid or minimize them.







By the time you complete this training with both the written and practical exams, you should be ready to operate an excavator. You will be familiar with the equipment used by your company, have an increased knowledge of how to set up and safely operate it, and be able to recognize and avoid the most common hazards associated with their use.



These are some of the main OSHA and ANSI standards for excavators. Of course, states and cities have additional standards, as do some industries. We have provided these as a guide, but it's your responsibility to know all federal, state, local and company rules that apply to your machine and job site.





## Did you know?

29 CFR 1910.178 specifies that an operator **must** take a refresher course if any of the following apply:

- The operator is observed operating the equipment in an **unsafe** manner (e.g., no seat belt, reckless driving, etc.)
- The operator is involved in an **accident** **or** a **near miss**
- The operator received a **poor evaluation** for performance
- The operator is required to **use a different type of machine** **or** **attachment**
- Workplace conditions have changed

Additionally, 1926.64(g)(2) states that “The employer...shall determine the appropriate frequency of refresher training.”

In line with OSHA requirements, anyone who operates heavy equipment must receive training prior to operating the machine on their own. OSHA requirements for refresher training related to forklifts or other processes are very specific. Most other equipment doesn't have such specific requirements, but it's wise to follow the same guidelines.



When it comes to refresher training, OSHA's standard in some instances (like forklifts) are very specific: operators must be re-evaluated every three years to see if they are still competent to operate the equipment. Best practices say to apply this same rule to all types of equipment. A so-called "free-pass" cannot be awarded based on experience, age, or time on the job. The extent of the evaluation is to be determined by the employer, but should include a written and practical examination that prove continued competency.





Initial training, as well as any evaluations or refresher courses must be documented with the name of the person or persons who taught the class or conducted the evaluation. Although OSHA doesn't require wallet cards as proof of training, many companies and worksites do require onsite proof that you have been trained. At the very least, in the case of an investigation, OSHA will want to see proof of proper and consistent training (in the way of training outlines, class lists, training goals, tests, certificates, etc.)

Only trained and authorized personnel should be permitted to operate the excavator. Before using the machine, the operator must:

- Read and understand the manufacturer's operating instructions and safety rules
- Receive training by a qualified person on the contents of the manufacturer's instructions and safety rules.
- Read and understand all decals, warnings, and instructions on the work platform.
- On a daily basis, before the equipment is used, perform a thorough inspection.





# Anatomy & Components

SAMPLE



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