

# Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series. Today, we will talk about asphalt paver safety, its machinery and how to operate it effectively and safely. By the end of this training, you will have the necessary knowledge and skills to be a safe operator.



Accidents while operating vehicles and heavy machinery like asphalt pavers are common. Many occur because of the lack of following regulations. These accidents cause upwards of 400 fatalities each year.





For example, Employee #1 was working on a paving tractor like the one pictured below. Instead of seating himself, he decided to stand on the platform next to the seat and control the machine from there.





As he was backing the machine up to reposition it for the next asphalt pull, he lost his footing and fell. The machine continued to back up and ran over him, killing him.



Unfortunately, this is not an isolated incident. There are plenty of paver machine accidents that have been reported to OSHA. These accidents could have been avoided if simple safety procedures were followed.



Image from The west Australian





For this training, we will begin by discussing the anatomy of the asphalt paver. As we discuss the anatomy of an asphalt paver, we will go through the daily checks and the basics of a pre-operation checklist. You will also become familiar with the signage that will be present on an asphalt paver within this section.



Then, we will discuss safe work practices, where we will cover who can operate the machinery and how to safely operate it. You will learn to practice safety with your coworkers, pedestrians, and other vehicles, and you will also learn what personal protective equipment (PPE) is required.





Following safe work practices, we will cover the stability of the vehicle and factors that can affect it, including the center of gravity, slopes, and maximum weight limits. We will also discuss how to keep stability at the right level.



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Lastly, we will discuss the variety of hazards that present themselves when working with an asphalt paver. From the vehicle itself, to the weather and surrounding environment, we will cover what can happen and how to avoid it.





# STANDARDS

OSHA

CFR 1910: Occupational Safety and Health Standards  
Subpart I, Personal protective equipment

- 1910.132 General requirements
- 1910.134 Respiratory protection
- 1910.157 Portable fire extinguishers

CFR 1926: Safety and Health Regulations and Construction

- 1926.152 Fire Protection and Prevention



There are no standards specific to asphalt pavers, but these are the standards related to hazards that come from operating asphalt machines. Many states have additional standards, as do some industries. We have provided these as a guide, but it's your responsibility to know all federal, local, and company rules that apply to your job site.





## Why Training?

No matter the situation, it is common to hear workers and even employers ask, “Where does it state we need to be trained?” Can’t a worker also be deemed “qualified” based on experience? The answer is “no.” Experience helps, yes, but OSHA makes it very clear that employees must be trained (no matter how long they’ve been on the job) and that it is the employer who is responsible for overseeing the safety training to confirm that the employees have the understanding, knowledge, and skills needed for safe operations.

## Workers are required to receive refresher training when...

- 1 There are changes in their assigned duties.
- 2 There are changes regarding potential exposure to hazards for which the employees have not received training.
- 3 There is any deficiency noted in an employee's work performance that is related to the safety and health of themselves or other workers.
- 4 If an accident or anytime an employee is injured or nearly injured during operations.

**NOTE:** In some areas, refresher training is required at least every three years (if not sooner).

Training is not just a one-and-done occurrence; it is on-going. In fact, similar to the guidelines set down for when initial training is required, OSHA is also specific when it comes to “refresher training.” More specifically, OSHA acknowledges the need for “refresher” or “follow up” training whenever there is a demonstrated need for it. Can you think of any others?



Initial training and refresher training, as well as any written and practical evaluations, must be documented and filed. 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, and so on.) These documents should include the name of the person who taught the class or conducted the evaluation.



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The extent of training will be determined by the employer, but at the very least it should include classroom instruction, followed by a written and practical examination that prove continued competency.



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# Anatomy

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