

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!



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Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series! Today we're going to talk about the safe operation and safety principals of graders, also called road graders and motor graders.



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TRAINING SERIES

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Most often seen leveling soil across construction sites and on road projects, they are also commonly used for snow removal. Regardless the application, there are key safety principles and common hazards that need to be both understood and applied day in and day out.

Perhaps, as a child, you spent hours playing in the backyard with a miniature version. But these, of course, are not toys. The bigger the machine, the greater the potential for damage, and the greater the need for responsible operators. With that in mind, the goal today is to focus on general safety principles and provide information that will increase your knowledge, make you a better operator, and keep you and those around you safe.





To explain the safety principals in this presentation, we will take a look at the functionality and components of a grader. We'll also show you why it's important to conduct a thorough inspection at the beginning of each shift before operating the grader.

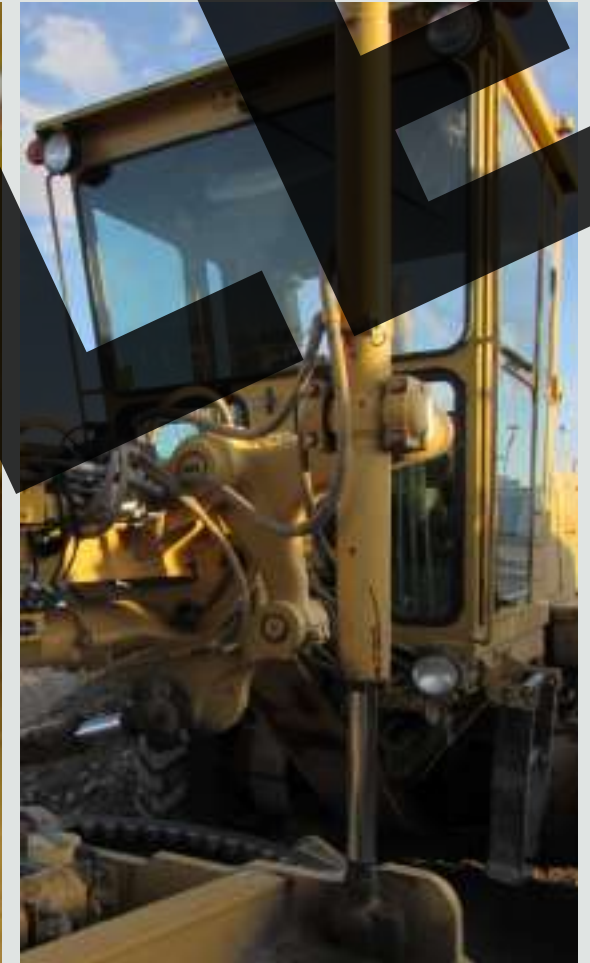
We will look at machine stability and the importance of not only knowing the graders capabilities, but working within those limits.



We'll emphasize the importance of planning each job, as well as the importance of knowing your machine and the area you will be working in. Understanding your machine, as well as the area you are working, in is imperative.



And finally, we will touch on some of the more common hazards associated with graders and discuss how to recognize, avoid, or minimize them.



By the time you complete this training with both the written and practical exams, you should be better prepared to safely operate a grader. 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.



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Anyone who operates heavy equipment must receive training prior to operating the machine on their own. As noted below, requirements for refresher training are also very specific.

Did you know?

Regulations specify 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, regulations state that it is the employer who is responsible to determine the frequency of refresher training.



OSHA's standard also says that each operator must be re-evaluated every three years to see if they are still competent to operate the 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.)



These are some of the main standards concerning loaders and earth-moving operations. Many areas have additional standards, as do some industries. It is your responsibility to know all federal, state/provincial, local and any company rules that apply to your machine and jobsite.

Equipment operators also share in the responsibility to ensure that they and their co-workers have:

- Received training by a qualified person.
- Read and understood the manufacturer's operating instructions and safety rules as found in the operator's manual.
- Read and understood all decals, warning labels, and capacity plates on the machine and attachments.
- Performed a thorough pre-shift inspection each day prior to operating the machine.



Anatomy & Components



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