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 principles while using an ice resurfacer.

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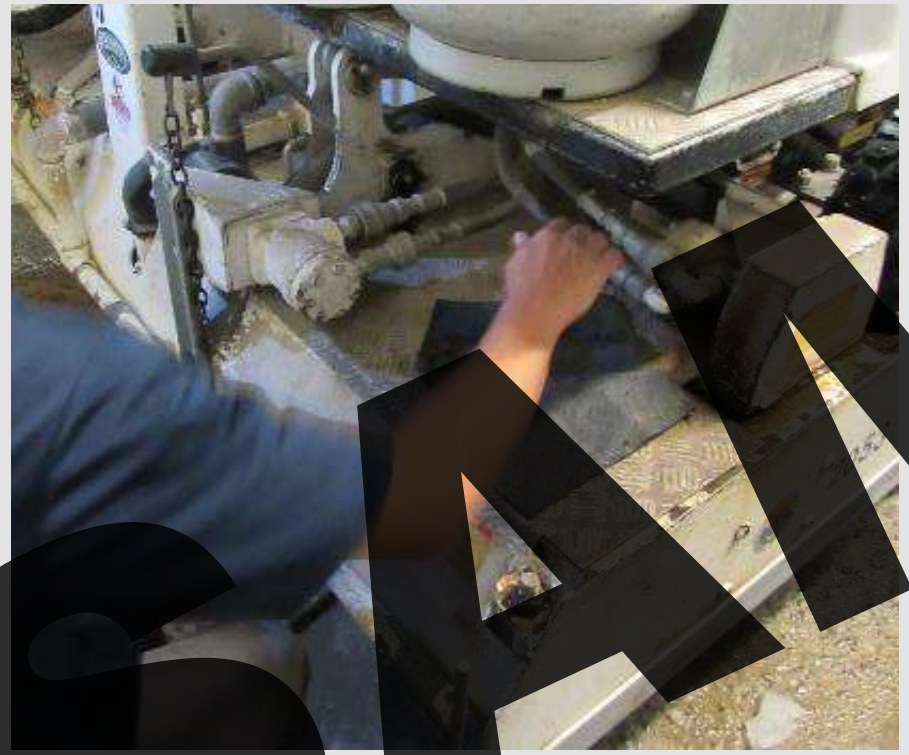
In today's training, you will learn how to perform a pre-operational inspection of an ice resurfacer and safe operations to protect you, those around you, and those using the ice safe.



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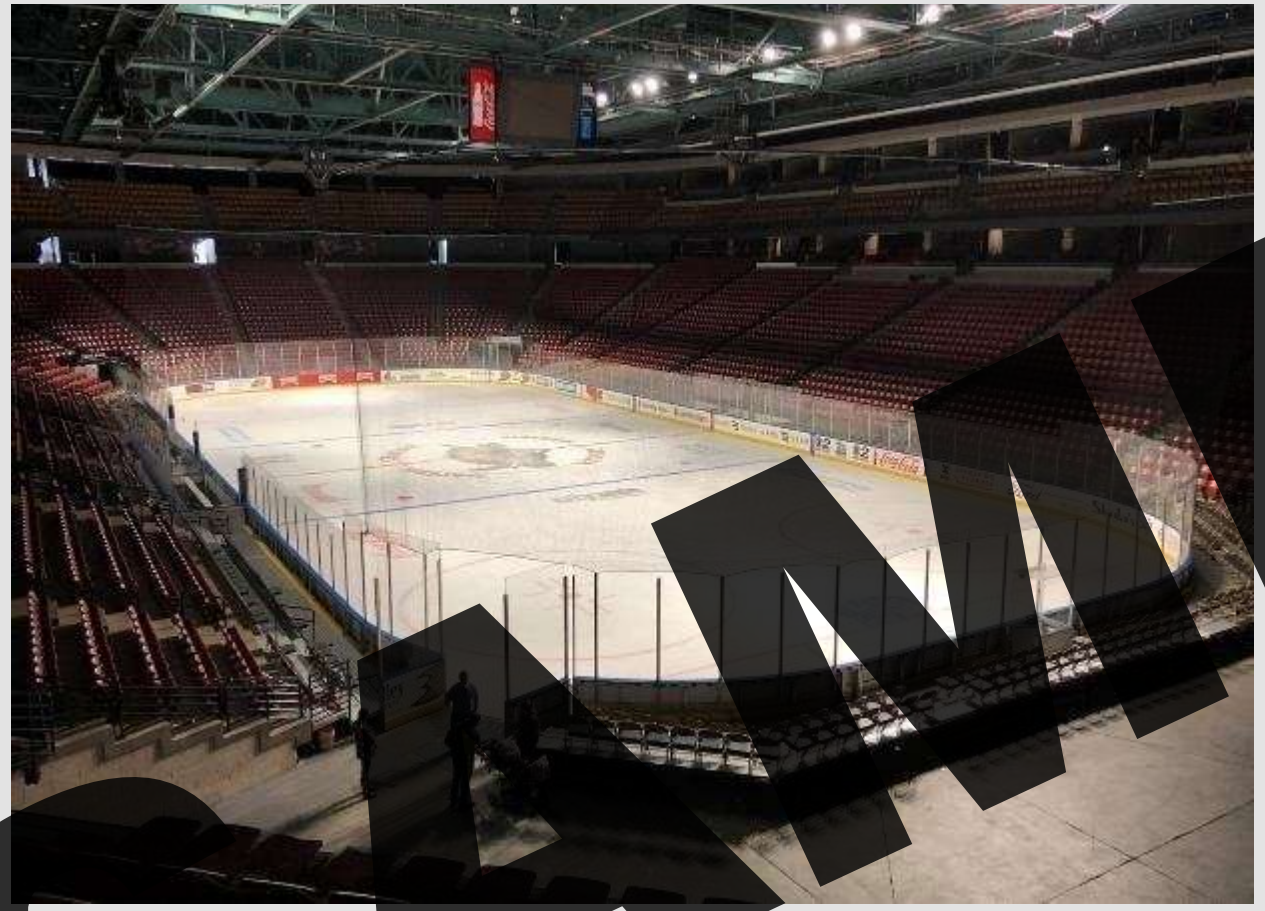

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If you've ever been to an ice hockey game or a figure skating event, then you've probably seen an ice resurfacer in action.

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Image from daildsports.com

Gliding along the rink at nine miles per hour, many people choose to watch these machines operate instead of going to the concession stands during breaks in action.

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But what do these machines actually do? Why do people find watching them so entertaining? How does it turn a scarred rink into a sheet of ice so smooth you can see reflections in it?

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While ice resurfacers may look like they're only sweeping the ice clean, there is a lot more to them than just that.

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History

Ice resurfacers are often referred to as “Zamboni’s.” This is in large part because of the man who built the first mechanized ice resurfacer, Frank Zamboni. In 1949, Zamboni invented a machine that changed the way resurfacing was completed. This invention changed the job of ice resurfacing from a five-man, 90 minute job to a one-man, 15 minute operation.

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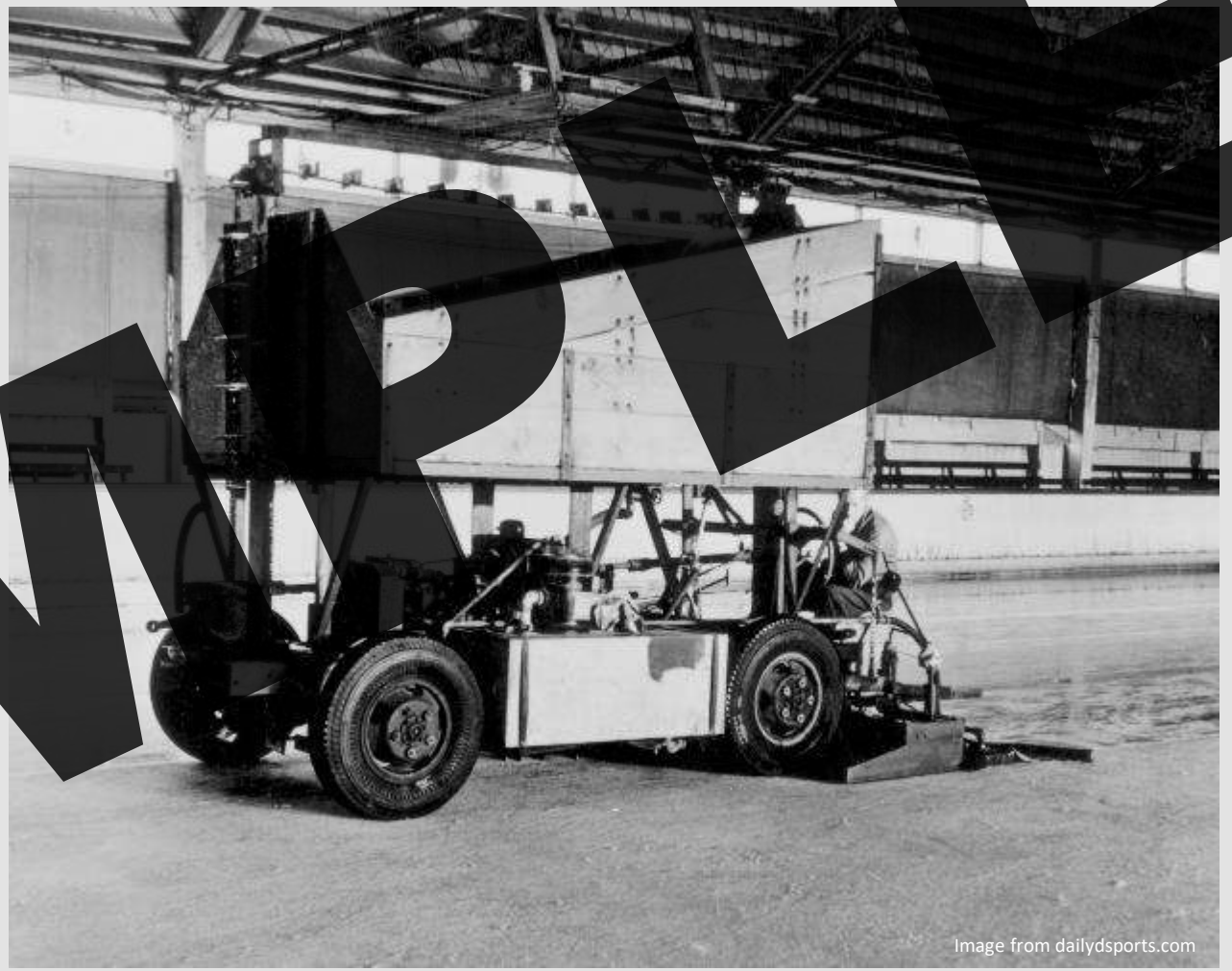
The first ice resurfacer created by Zamboni had an engine and axles from war surplused vehicles, a seat from a tractor, and a wooden box that held the snow shavings. At one point, there was even four-wheel steering, but he quickly realized this would not work when he could not get away from the boards.



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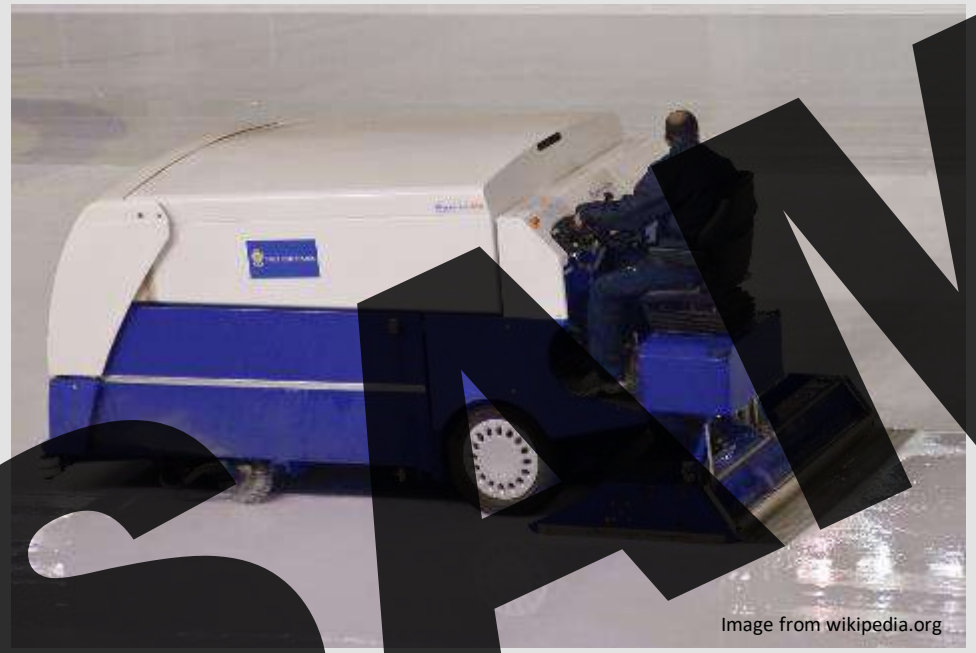
It didn't take long for ice rink owners to notice the advantage of using one of Zamboni's ice resurfacers to maintain their rinks. The popularity and demand for these machines over the years has transformed how the original ice resurfacers operated and were produced into what they are today.



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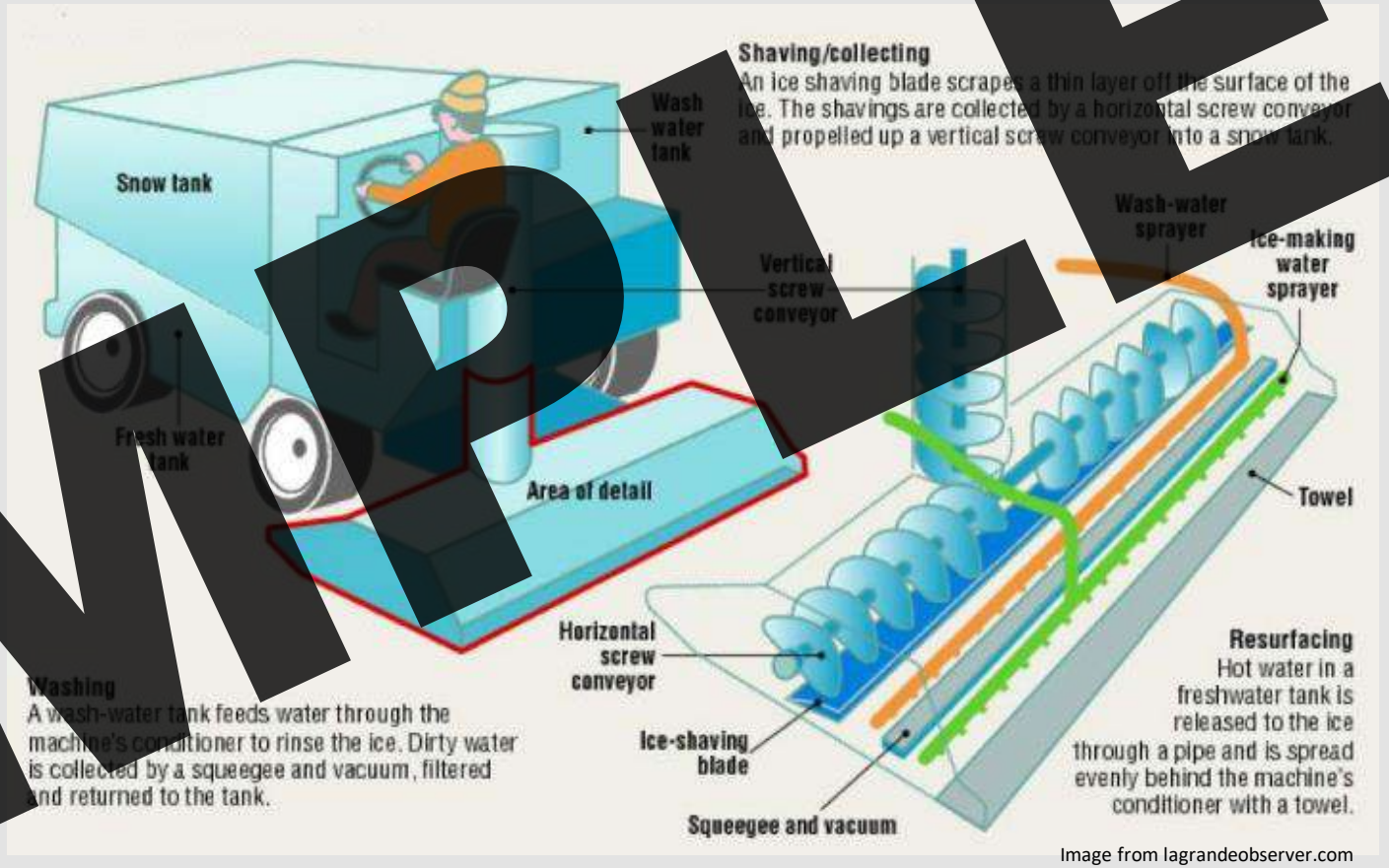
How Ice Resurfacers Work

Before operating an ice resurfacer, it's important to understand what exactly your machine does. This image highlights just a few of the important steps in the resurfacing process.



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

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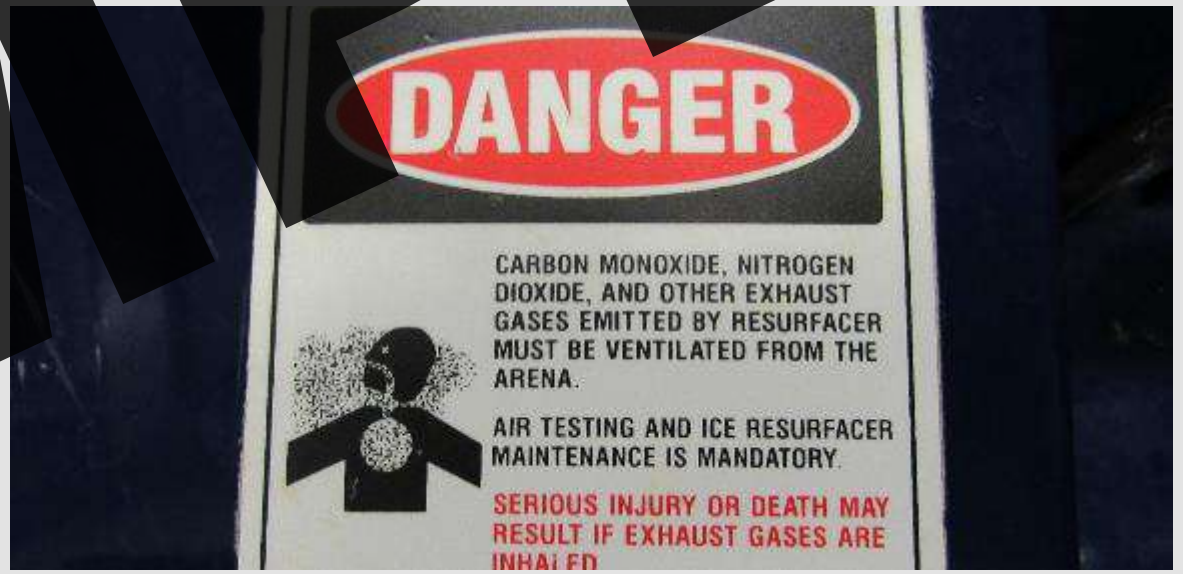
And finally, we will touch on some of the more common hazards associated with ice resurfacers and discuss how to recognize, avoid, and minimize them.



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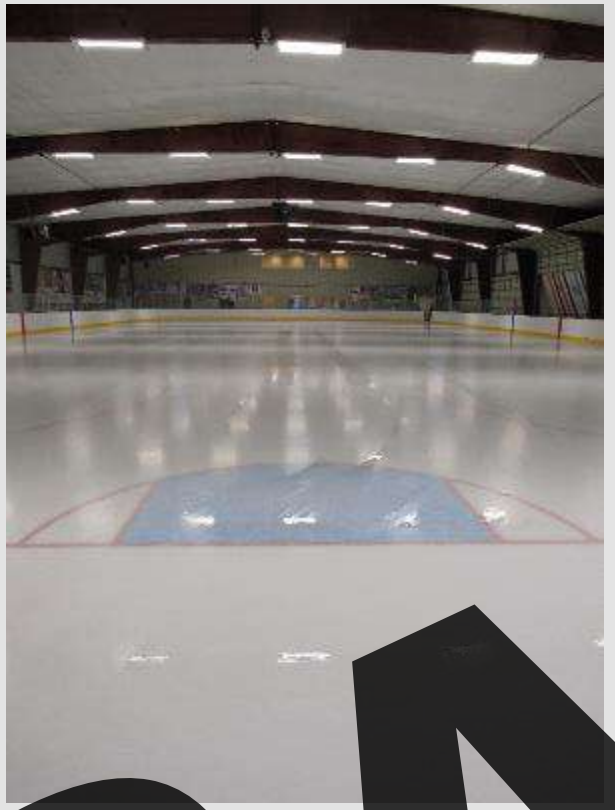

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By the time you complete this training, with both the written and practical exams, you should be better prepared to safely operate an ice resurfacer. You can be more familiar with the machine used at your facility, have an increased knowledge of how to safely operate it, and be able to recognize and avoid common hazards associated with its use.

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Prior to operating an ice resurfacer, you should be trained by someone who is qualified to teach safe practices and proper operation of the machine. Never attempt to operate an ice resurfacer if you have not been properly trained. Improper use can cause damage to the machine, and in come cases, serious harm to yourself.

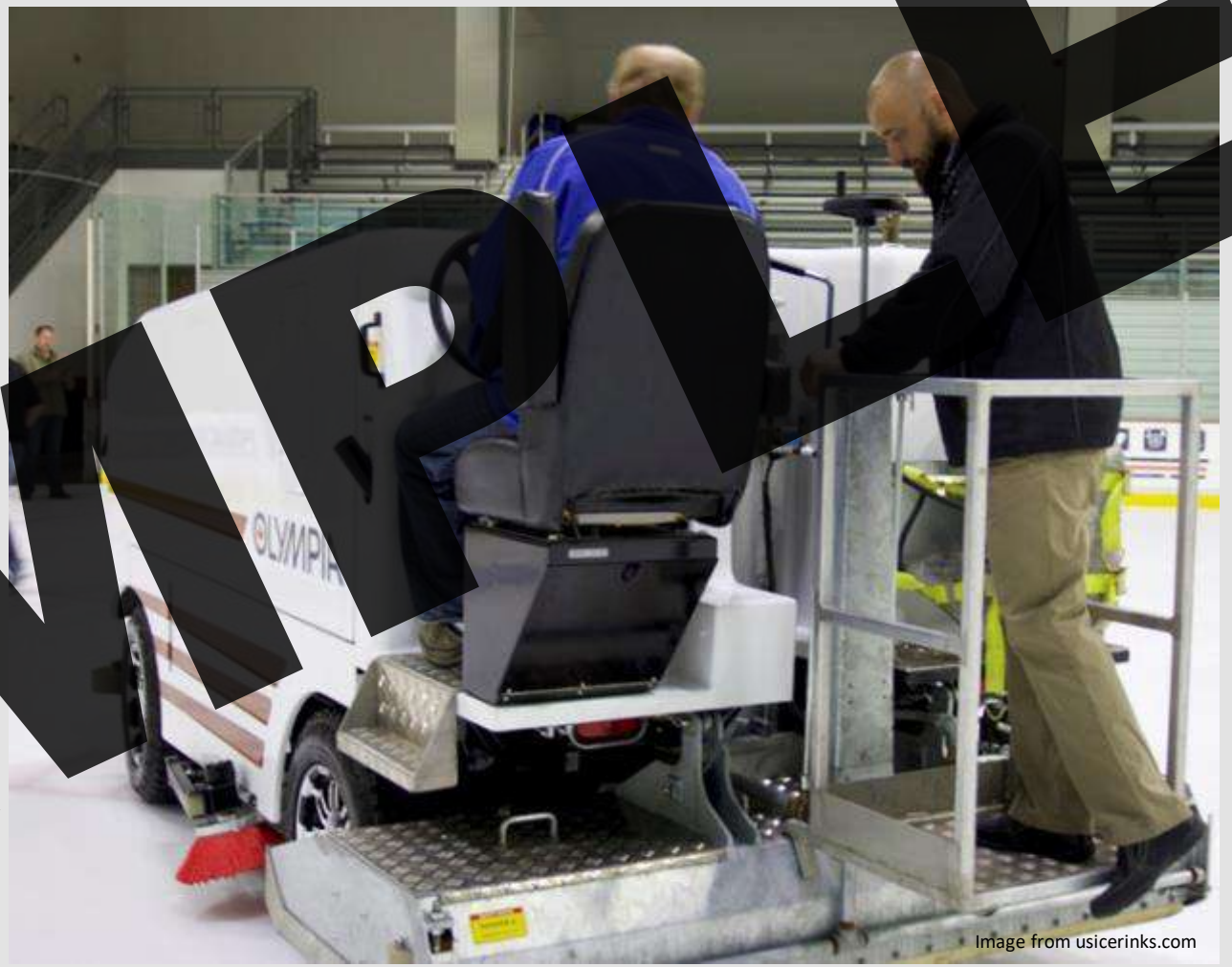

Image from usicerinks.com

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Take time to thoroughly read your machine's operator's manual. This training is not meant to replace the manual, but to provide additional information it may not include. Information in your operator's manual should take precedence over any conflicting information about your resurfacer that maybe included in this training.

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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.

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Anatomy

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