

# Construction Equipment Training

The construction industry relies on the use of heavy equipment and machinery. For the protection of your workers and your business interests, it's vital that every person on your job site is properly trained in the safe operation of heavy machinery.

Train your employees using the Observe it – Do it – Repeat it method.

**Observe it** – Start in the classroom. Use training materials or videos provided by the equipment manufacturer, union or trade organizations, or industry associations. Cover how to operate the equipment safely, the intended use, hazards to avoid, and any regulatory requirements that apply. After the classroom presentation is completed, have team members observe an experienced operator demonstrate the proper operation of the equipment while pointing out all of the safety features.

**Do it** – Have each team member practice operating the equipment with a supervisor overseeing the operation.

**Repeat it** – Make sure all team members have had several opportunities to operate the machinery in a supervised environment before they operate it on an actual job site.



Review these points at the beginning of each construction season, during your safety meetings, and whenever a new piece of equipment is placed into service or introduced to a jobsite.

- How to assess if you're on the proper terrain
- How to use any stabilizers or outriggers
- How to safely mount and dismount the equipment
- How to fill with fuel
- How to start each piece of equipment
- How to identify the load capacities
- The intended use on your job site(s)
- Reminder to assess surroundings for hazards
- Reminder not to disable any audible or visual alarms
- Reminder to be conscious of where other people are working and where other vehicles and equipment are operating
- Reminder to know the swing radius of each piece of machinery
- Block off a work perimeter whenever possible
- Highlight all necessary PPE and point out any required seatbelts or harnesses and location of tie offs
- Quiz operators on key safety points in the operator's manual at the conclusion of the training

**Key Point:** Only use a piece of equipment the way the manufacturer intended. Otherwise, you could risk serious injury or death from misusing equipment.