



TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

RISK REMINDER



BACKHOE/ EXCAVATOR SAFETY

The operation of heavy equipment such as a backhoe/excavator should always be done by a skilled operator who has proven the ability to operate and perform safely. Here are a few safety guidelines to consider before and during operation of a backhoe.



1. Operator should be at least 18 years old.
2. Perform regular equipment inspections to insure everything is operating correctly.
3. When driving on the road to a jobsite, the backhoe should have a slow moving vehicle sign and flashing lights.
4. Have good communication with ground crew, such as hand signals or radios.
5. Use Three-Point Contact when getting on and off; two feet and one hand, or one foot and two hands.
6. Wear hearing protection if necessary according to OSHA guidelines.
7. Equipment must have a rollover protective structure (ROPS) meeting OSHA requirements.
8. Operator must wear a seat belt to help prevent being ejected in case of a rollover.
9. When operating on a slope, try not to operate across the slope. Try to work up and down the slope to help avoid rollovers.
10. Be sure that the ground crew is aware of the blind spots of the backhoe. Crew should stay at least 30 feet away while being operated.

These guidelines should be put in place to help avoid injury.

Be Safe Not Sorry

For more information, contact your Loss Control Consultant at (800) 252-5059, ext. 1387 or 1384.

CLAIM REPORTING HOTLINE (844) 562-2720 | Available 24/7