September 2020

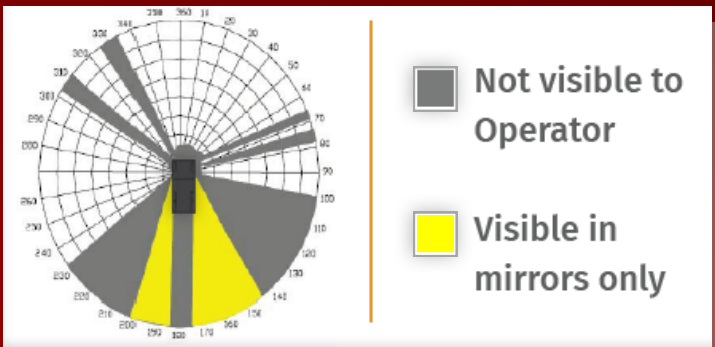
HAZARD ALERT

Blind Spots

In January 2020, a worker was fatally injured when an operator of a dump truck failed to see the worker while driving in reverse. Being struck by heavy equipment, primarily dump trucks, is a leading cause of worker injuries and deaths in construction zones.

Dump trucks have large blind spots that can limit the field of vision for the operator. It is crucial for operators, supervisors, and workers to recognize the hazards created by blind spots, and to pay special attention when operating or working near trucks or heavy equipment to ensure the safety of both the operator and others.





What is a Blind Spot?

Blind spots are areas around a vehicle, or a piece of heavy equipment, which are not visible to the operator either directly in the line of sight or indirectly by using mirrors.

Legislated Requirements

The following legislative requirements under PEI's *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act* and Regulations relate to this hazard alert:

OHS Act - Section 12(1)(a) states, "An employer shall ensure that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect the occupational health and safety of persons at or near the workplace."

General Regulations – Section 33.8(1) states "The employer shall designate a worker to give signals to an operator who is operating powered mobile equipment when the operator's vision is obstructed and the operator shall use the equipment only on mutually agreed signals between the operator and the designated worker."

General Regulations - Section 33.13 states "An employer shall ensure that powered mobile equipment is operated only by competent persons."

General Regulations – Section 50.3(a) states "The employer shall ensure signalers are employed when construction work is being carried out in areas where employees safety is endangered by vehicle traffic.

To report a serious workplace injury, contact the occupational health & safety line at 902-628-7513

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Recommended Precautions

The following precautions are recommended when working with, or near, heavy equipment.

Operators must:

- Be competent to operate the heavy equipment.
- Ensure horn, mirrors, alarms, flashing lights, and other safety equipment is functioning properly.
- Be mindful of pedestrians, walkways, and other vehicles.

Employers and Supervisors must:

- Ensure operators are competent.
- Ensure trucks and heavy equipment are regularly maintained and inspected.
- Designate safe walkways and ensure workers and pedestrians remain on safe paths.
- Ensure workers wear high visibility clothing .

Workers should:

- Make eye contact with the operator.
- Wear high visibility clothing.
- Stay alert. Avoid using cell phones and other distracting devices.
- Use the designated pedestrian paths.
- Maintain a safe distance from heavy equipment.



Remember: If you can't see the operator, they can't see you!

Safety Matters @Work
Workers Compensation Board of PEI
WCBPEI

For more information, please contact:
Workers Compensation Board of PEI
Phone 902-368-5697
Toll Free 1-800-237-5049
wcb.pe.ca

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