



CELLULAR PHONES & HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Use of cell phones by operators of moving equipment has become an important issue, raised after a New England Journal of Medicine linked use of cell phones to a quadrupled risk of motor vehicle collision.

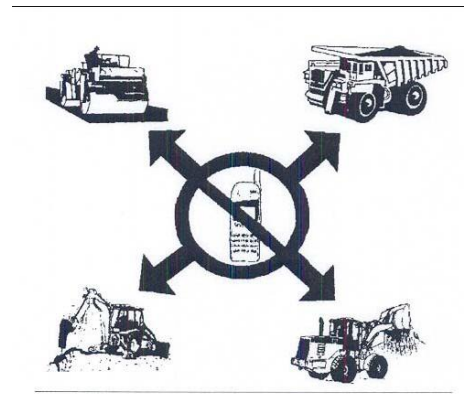
There are many significant safety hazards in a construction work environment, and it is critical to reduce those hazards where possible. Elimination of unnecessary hazards such as those caused by cell phone usage is critical for the safety of heavy equipment operators and others at the work site.

Studies have found three problems related to cell phone usage and moving vehicles. Two problems (dialing and holding the phone) relate directly to the operator's hand and eye control – critical to operation of heavy equipment. While "hands free" phone equipment may reduce the impact of those issues, there is a third issue that has been found to be even more of a contributor to collisions: talking on the phone.

Research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) found that engagement in *conversation* is more often a factor in collisions than hand/eye distractions. Operators tied up in phone conversations become inattentive to the tasks at hand, resulting

in careless or negligent operation of moving vehicles.

For the safety of themselves and others, it is critical that heavy equipment operators stay focused while equipment is in operation.



Remember...

- Don't use cellular phones while operating heavy equipment. Use voice-mail messaging, and return calls during breaks or equipment downtime.
- Turn cellular phones off where blasting is in progress. Observe restrictions and follow any regulations or rules.
- Turn cellular phones off near any refueling station or hazardous chemicals, and obey all signs and instructions.

Date:	Company Name:	
Project Number/Name:	Meeting Location:	Person Conducting Meeting:

Items Discussed: _____

Problem Areas or Concerns: _____

Attendees: _____

Comments: _____