

Backhoe Safety Tool Box

Backhoe Safety Best Practices

- Operators must be trained and authorized before beginning unsupervised operation.
- Operators must read and understand the owner's manual.
- Review safety features of the backhoe including emergency shutdowns.
- Operators must know the machine's limitations, including load capacity.



Pre-Shift Inspections

- Call 811 or 1-800-DIG-RITE or [www. Mo1call.com](http://www.Mo1call.com) to have underground utilities located before beginning excavation.
- Perform a “pre-shift” inspection of the backhoe before use & check the following:
 - Tire inflation
 - Clean windshield
 - Floorboard clear of obstructions
 - Hydraulic controls function properly
 - Fluid levels full
 - No fluid leaks found
 - Backhoe brakes function
 - Backhoe outriggers function
 - Lighting and flashers work
- Report maintenance problems or safety concerns immediately and in writing.
- Tag “out of service” or remove keys when the machine needs repair or malfunctions.
- Always shut down the engine when dismounting backhoe.



General Safety Concerns

- Use three-point contact when mounting or dismounting the cab.
- Check and clear the area of pedestrians
- Stop backhoe operations if a pedestrian approach
- Turn head and check behind backhoe before backing – never assume people are out of the way!
- Do not just rely on backup alarm to work effectively in noisy environments!
- Do not carry passengers unless they are seated and wearing a seat belt.

- Never stand under elevated loads or buckets.
- Never lift an employee in a bucket.
- Keep buckets low when driving backhoe – this keeps the center of gravity low and increases operator visibility.
- Operate the backhoe with outriggers down and on stable footings.
- Slow down when approaching grades or bumpy areas-avoid being thrown.
- Always wear the seat belt. The ROPS (roll over protections system) will not protect you unless you are wearing a seat belt.
- After operation. Shut down engine and lower buckets to the ground fully – never leave loads elevated.

