

SafetyToolboxTalks

TOOL BOX TALK HYDRO “VACTOR” EXCAVATOR TRUCK

The Vactor offers a safe way to excavate, but it comes with a few hazards. These hazards can be reduced or eliminated with knowledge and proper training. Safety is the primary concern in all operations and is everybody's responsibility. Here are some of the hazards associated with the excavator truck.

INJURY BY HIGH PRESSURE WATER JETS

- Danger of flying debris.
- Cross contamination of materials.
- Crushing hazards with rear gate and body.
- Static ignition hazard.
- Overhead and surrounding obstructions.
- Rotating and moving parts.
- Pinch points with linkages and articulations.
- Backing unit – Obstructions and traffic.
- Vacuum Hazards – Rupture-Suffocation-Cutting Fall Protection.

HOW TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE HAZARDS LISTED ABOVE

- Proper placement of wand and proper PPE will help with flying debris. Aim wand away from other personnel and other critical areas. PPE requirements are Hard Hat with visor, Safety Glasses, Double Hearing Protection, Safety Shoes, and Gloves with Rain Gear if needed. Keep working area clear for good visibility and footing.
- Thoroughly clean unit between job to prevent cross contamination, when washing out, secure lockout of rear hatch door with safety latches to prevent a crushing hazard.
- Proper grounding of truck will eliminate static electricity and is recommended to ground truck in all applications. Be aware of overhead hazards and follow all Federal, State and Company rules.
- Stay clear of all moving and rotating parts. Make co-workers aware before moving unit, Be aware of all pinch points where there are attachments linkages. The clearance in areas will change with movement of the attachments
- When backing or moving unit, assess your conditions and recognize the capabilities of the equipment to determine the safest and most efficient operating manner. Always know where your co-workers are located along with knowledge of road conditions, holes, traffic patterns and other equipment. Always use spotters to eliminate blind spots before moving.

SafetyToolboxTalks

- Injuries by the vac-truck can be serious. The vacuum action must be stopped as quickly as possible. Seconds matter when the body is subject to the vacuum rupture. Keep vacuum tools and hoses away from the face and body. Body contact through the hose end can result in evisceration of organs or the avulsions of limbs. Serious injury and even death can result from vacuum suffocation.
- When crushing and cutting, do not attach hoses, pipes or accessories while vacuum is on. Forces from the vacuum can trap hands, fingers and feet in the joints with enough force or impact to either crush or sever body parts. Material flow in system will increase the severity of the injury by physical damage and contamination of the wound.
- The in-line vacuum relief valve “MUST” be within 50 feet from the end of the hose or pipe for proper operation.
- Fall Protection shall be worn when servicing trucks on boom maintenance or removing debris from boom. A Personal Fall Arrest System (PFAS) can be attached to certain anchorage points in areas on the truck when digging deep holes requiring fall protection.

