



ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET: *Maintenance and Inspections of Equipment*

Maintenance and inspections of equipment is important in the construction industry. It does not matter if you own the equipment or if you are renting. Maintenance and inspections should be completed on all types of equipment. From an owner's standpoint you always want to protect your investment and keep your equipment in the best condition possible. From a rental company standpoint, they would like to be able to provide you with the most current and up to date equipment that there is out there. By completing the required maintenance schedule that the manufacture suggest should allow for less down time and most safe operation.

If your company does not have a scheduled maintenance program for the equipment that is owned you can contact the manufacture and they can provide you with some suggestions. You can also go to the internet and print off and generic Daily Inspection report. It should include some things like, check tire pressure in tires, check engine oil daily, check hydraulic fluids daily, grease all required fittings daily, and perform a pre-operation test prior to use. However, do not limit this to just company owned equipment. Have the same concerns for the rented equipment that your company does not own. In most cases the equipment company that you are renting from will require you to do daily inspections on the equipment. Yes, it is checked thoroughly before it is put on rent to your company. However, it is up to the operator and your company to make sure that it stays in that condition while in your possession. There should be stickers and labels from either the manufacture and or the rental company suggesting what to check daily. You always want to have a copy of the daily maintenance inspection kept on the machine. Keeping other operators informed is very important. When completing the inspection of the equipment if you find something wrong: stop, inform your supervisor, tag the equipment as "Do Not Operate" and get it fixed. You should never operate malfunctioning equipment. By not doing scheduled maintenance and inspections as required you increase your chance for providing unsafe equipment on your site.

Do not limit yourself or your company to just doing daily maintenance inspections of the equipment. Make sure that you have trained and qualified personal operating the equipment. You might contact the manufacture and see if they hold a training session for the type of equipment that you need. In a rental situation contact the company that you are renting from and they should be able to help you. More accidents occur when the operator is not trained and familiarized with the type if equipment that he and or she is operating. Refer to the operator's manual that should be on every machine for questions regarding safe operation.

Equipment is very expensive to purchase and very expensive to own. Treat it like it's yours. Only use it as it was intended to be used. Take the extra time to do some of the steps listed above. By doing so your equipment should last you a long time. Not having to make repairs that could have been prevented by doing scheduled maintenance will increase your company's profits.

The main goal at the end of the work shift or end of the job is to have zero incidents. By keeping your equipment properly maintained and inspected you will decrease your down time and that will lead to a decrease in unsafe operation.

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