



#9 BLOCKING RAISED EQUIPMENT

Talk Leader Instructions:

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

WORK ACTIVITY

You 'block' a load that has been lifted to ensure it cannot fall. The block(s) or stabilizer(s) should have a weight capacity greater than the weight of the load which is being lifted. Never rely on the jack or system that was used to lift or operate the load to securely support the load while you are under it. Use a proper block.

BACKGROUND

Unless you have ensured that raised equipment cannot move by securely blocking movement, the potential for collapse is very great. In the majority of incidents where equipment has unexpectedly come down, the person under it had no time to react and escape – it happens faster than you can move. The equipment can come down for a variety of reasons, including soft ground not being able to support the base of a jack or small block; an inadvertent release of hydraulic pressure by someone touching the control or loosening a fitting; to the person under the equipment pulling on a tool causing the equipment to move on its inadequate blocking.

Even if you just have to go under or in between raised components for a minute, it will take far less time to block the raised equipment securely compared to the time it will take to recover from the injuries or arrange a funeral.

PROCEDURE

Depending on the type of equipment you are working on:

- ✓ Place a heavy timber across the chassis of raised equipment tight into the hinge point;
- ✓ Secure a factory stop block over the ram of a hydraulic cylinder on the gate of a round baler; OR,
- ✓ Place a stable block under a piece of equipment that has been jacked up.

Trucks or dump wagons that are used to haul silage or grain should only be emptied on firm, level surfaces. (Raising a box on soft or sloping surfaces can cause the unit to turn over sideways.) Helpers should stand far enough away to avoid being crushed if the vehicle should overturn or if the load should dump all at once. As with all hydraulically raised devices, no one should work under a raised dump box unless the box has been securely blocked.

KEY POINTS

- ✓ Review the complete Standard Operating Practices for this work every year or at the start of the season when you will be using this type of equipment.
- ✓ Don't rely on jacks, hoists or hydraulic systems to support raised equipment. They are made to lift, not to support. The equipment should be blocked to support it while you are working on it. *(cont'd on page 2)*



#9 BLOCKING RAISED EQUIPMENT PAGE 2

Talk Leader Instructions:

This is background information ONLY. Be sure to customize to your operation and facilities.

- ✓ Print copies of this sheet for yourself and each of the participants.
- ✓ Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet at a location that is appropriate to the topic. Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible.
- ✓ Be open to questions.
- ✓ Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- ✓ Fill in your operation name, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- ✓ File your sheet in your worker training records to document the training experience.

KEY POINTS (cont'd from page 1)

- ✓ Machines and equipment should be supported with the manufacturer's safety bracing system. If it is not available use solid wood blocking on solid work surfaces according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Block both sides of wheels on partially raised farm equipment with trailing wheels.
- ✓ Turn off tractor engine and set brakes during maintenance work, unless otherwise indicated by manufacturer.
- ✓ Freight should be blocked when loading or unloading a trailer. Do not use other freight as a block. Use proper materials for blocking.
- ✓ Use larger blocks on the bottom. Make the platform as wide as possible.
- ✓ Double-up and alternate the positioning of blocks while building a platform.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES / CONTACTS

When working alone, call your supervisor prior to starting this type of dangerous work to review the procedures you will follow and establish a check-in time to confirm that the work is proceeding safely.

In case of emergency, call 911 or your local emergency services, then call your supervisor.

MORE RESOURCES

Support of Raised Dump Boxes <http://www.safemanitoba.com/uploads/bulletins/bltn148.pdf>

COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS:

Operation Name _____

Location _____

Meeting Leader _____

Date _____

TOOLBOX TALK PARTICIPANTS

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____

Print name _____ Signature _____