

## Toolbox Talks

### Weekly Tailgate Topic\_

**12-25**

DISCUSS WITH CREWS ON \_\_\_\_\_ [INSERT DATE]

#### **GOOD COMMUNICATION = SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Lack of communication between crewmembers is one of the single most reasons for accidents, injuries and deaths on the job-site. Asphalt pavers, rollers, excavators, grad-alls, saw cutters, forklifts, mopeds, impatient motorists, worksite vehicles, cranes, and other mobile equipment are constantly performing hundreds of separate tasks around us daily, and all it takes is for one single breakdown of communication between two individuals and an accident can occur.

In the case of a milling machine accident that occurred in 2002, lack of communication between the operator and the ground man led to a fatality. The milling machine was being operated from the right side operator station, being backed into position. A ground worker on the right side of the machine was guiding the operator. The machine's left front track assembly struck and ran over another ground worker on the left side. He died of crushing injuries.

Communication of site coordination could have saved a life. A briefing before the shift takes approximately 10-15 mins of everyone's time. Time well spent.

Use these suggestions as guidelines for maintaining communication on worksites:

- Before the shift, complete the Daily Work Plan as a crew and ensure everyone understands what work will be conducted on the shift, how it will happen, what their responsibilities are and what the associated hazards and controls will be. (This a form of training)
- Always use the proper level of PPE. (e.g.: Safety vest, steel-toed boots, hard-hat when applicable)
- Always make eye contact with an equipment operator prior to entering his swing or blind spot.
- Employ good communication skills, have a pre-arranged set of signals if verbal communication is not effective (due to noise).
- Use extra caution when working around trucks backing up. Remember if you can't see them, then they can't see you. Do not walk in between the paver and a truck that is backing up to dump its load.
- Stay away from dangerous pinch points from swinging excavators and dump trucks.
- Watch out for each other, especially new workers.

#### **Questions to Generate Discussion**

- Why is it important for everyone to be in the loop regarding site coordination?
- Who is responsible for communicating the plan of action for the day? Who is responsible for ensuring workers understand the plan for the day?
- How can you improve your site communication?

