

Mill yard safety

Why it's important

Large and noisy pieces of machinery often come into close contact with workers who are on foot in mill yards. The machine operators may have a limited field of vision and along with the high level of noise in the area, it's not surprising that hazardous situations arise when workers enter these danger zones.

How to control the hazards

Mill yard safety rules

- Outside in the yard, the trucks, stackers, loaders and lift trucks have the right of way and it's your job to stay out of their way.
- All of the powered equipment in the yard is noisy, so their operators often can't hear you, and you might not hear a loader coming near you over all of the other noise.
- Stacks of material can obstruct everybody's view, so you often can't see a machine or vehicle coming. Many machine operators and drivers have a very limited field of view, so they might not be able to see you.
- Know the rules for entry into dangerous areas. Stay out of the yard unless you have a specific job to do there. Keep to the walkways.
- Stop, look, and listen before you enter or cross any open area where machines and other vehicles operate.
- Always observe the danger zone rule: Never approach a working machine until the operator sees you, acknowledges your presence, stops work, lowers the load and signals you forward.

Rules for approaching mill yard machines

- Never approach a working machine or vehicle until:
 - The operator sees you.
 - The operator acknowledges your presence.

- The operator stops work.
- Lifting devices, buckets, or blades are lowered or stopped.
- The operator signals you forward.

Key Points to remember

- Know where the danger zone is
- Avoid unauthorized areas
- Develop and follow safe procedures for troubleshooting and maintenance
- Establish communication between operators and workers.

Show and tell

Talk about the danger zones in your mill yard.

If possible, use a typical mill yard machine, like a yard loader that is stopped and locked out, to show participants where the danger zones are on the machine.

Do a very careful walkabout of your mill yard, pre-arranging to Show and tell the communication that exists between workers and operators of the machines. Also show where the danger zones are around pieces of equipment.

Notes:
