



DOZER OPERATION BEST PRACTICES

For Supervisory Personnel and Operators

Best Practices for Supervisory Personnel

PRE-OPERATION

- Review the operator manual for unique operational/equipment requirements.
- Ensure there is an appropriate Emergency Action Plan to protect employees in case of fires, electrical storms, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Ensure that your plan is site specific for each job and that it is well communicated to employees.
- Consult the manual to determine maximum allowable slope for safe operation.
- Ensure availability of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for the tasks being performed and as required per OSHA regulations.
- Verify the fire extinguisher location. Check and verify it is operational. Make sure the operator is qualified to operate it.

OPERATION

- Only qualified personnel shall operate equipment. A qualified person through knowledge, skills, and experience has demonstrated their ability to operate the equipment.
- Verify that all unnecessary personnel are prohibited from the work area.
- Ensure that hand signals are given by one person and understood by all personnel on site.

POST OPERATION

- Verify equipment is properly parked and parking brake set.

Best Practices for Operators

PRE-OPERATION

- Read, understand, and follow the operator's manual.
- Consult the manual to determine maximum allowable slope for safe operation.
- Wear appropriate PPE for the tasks being performed and as required by OSHA regulations.
- When refueling, bond the supply tank with the fuel tank to prevent static discharge and possible fire.
- Conduct a walk around inspection *checking all fluids and* noting any items needing maintenance and repair. Ensure all critical repairs are performed before operation.
- Make sure all warning labels are legible. Those not legible must be cleaned or replaced.
- Inspect wire rope and drum on the winch.
- Remove debris and clutter in the cab that would prevent safe operation.
- Verify the fire extinguisher location. Check and verify it is operational. Make sure you are qualified to operate it.
- Use 3 points of contact to enter the machine.
- Get on the machine only at locations that have steps and/or handholds. If the machine does not have these, advise your supervisor immediately.
- Do not use any controls as handholds when entering or exiting the operator compartment.
- Check backup alarm for operation.
- Check to ensure the seat belt is operational. *Always* use the seat belt.
- Check that controls are in proper settings before starting machine.

OPERATION

- Only a qualified/authorized person shall operate equipment. A qualified person through knowledge, skills, and experience has demonstrated their ability to operate the equipment.
- Verify that the one call (811) has been made and that utilities are marked and depth verified before the commencement of equipment operation.
- Competent person shall appoint a spotter if there are overhead power lines, underground utilities, or tight working conditions in the work area.

- When the equipment is in operation, the doors (when installed) *must be closed or secured by latch in the open position.*
- When necessary to park on a grade, do so according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- If the operator leaves the seat of the equipment, the hydraulics shall be lowered and the machine turned off.
- All unnecessary personnel shall be prohibited from the work area.
- Hand signals shall be given by one person and must be understood by all personnel on site.
- No riders shall be permitted.
- Do not operate this piece of equipment during stormy conditions. Seek shelter according to the company's Emergency Action Plan.

POST OPERATION

- Park and set parking brake.
- Lower the hydraulics.
- Shut engine off, remove key, lock doors and engage security system (if available).
- Use 3 points of contact to exit the machine.