HEAVY MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY

The best way to avoid injuries from self-propelled units, such as cranes, dozers, and trucks is to be alert and aware of your surroundings and stay out of the way. The operator of the vehicle should do his best to prevent running over anyone, but with all the commotion on the construction site, it may be difficult the see you. You should also not depend on a horn to give you the warning; as you know, construction sites are busy and noisy.

You should be especially careful when a vehicle is reversing. There is frequently no one to direct the driver when he is maneuvering backward. It is your responsibility to keep a clear distance from the vehicle and never try to dart across the path of a moving vehicle. The ground may be muddy or slippery and there is most likely debris laying around for you to trip over, which could have fatal consequences.

Riding in or on vehicles – Do not ride on any vehicles except those intended to transport you between jobs. You should not ride on the running boards or drawbar of a unit, loaded trucks or the bucket of a bucket loader. Riding on the top of a load is especially dangerous. You may fall off if the load shifts, or be crushed under low clearances. When riding in transport vehicles, keep your arms and legs inside the vehicle at all times.

Walking beside vehicles – Do not walk next to vehicles moving equipment. If the vehicle slides or turns, or if the load it is carrying shifts, there could be fatal consequences. Do not walk under loads, cranes or hoists. Be especially careful to keep a safe distance from the crane and never touch the frame when power lines are in the area. If the crane touches a power line, you could be electrocuted. Electricity can jump several feet as well, depending on voltage and weather conditions.

Stay Alert – Always be aware of your surroundings on a construction site. Be alert and stay out of the way of moving vehicles.