

Safety-Gram

Title 45, Chapter 11

Volume 20, Number 7

JULY 2019

Field Equipment Maintenance Safety

Field equipment maintenance and repairs are quintessential to a safe operation. This type of work can also mean that production must cease, which can create pressure to take shortcuts and/or work at an unsafe pace. This can cause human error, which increases the chances of injury.

Tip of the day- Don't do that.

Basic rules to follow in order to lessen the risk involved:

- Everyone one should be trained and adhere to basic safety practices, which includes wearing all proper PPE and keeping a tidy workplace.
- Plan: Review the task, create a process and perform a job safety analysis. Both employee and employer need to fully understand the task and risk involved. Employers and employees should be knowledgeable and prepared to perform the safest methods to complete that task.
- Secure the workplace: The work area needs to be secured by preventing unauthorized access by using lock-out tag-out, barriers, signs, etc.
- Use proper equipment: Employers should provide employees with appropriate tools and equipment, which may be different from those that they normally use.
- Stick to the plan: For a plan to work as designed the steps need to be adhered to.
 - Occasionally a plan doesn't go as designed or un-foreseen circumstances require an alteration to complete the task. Changes need to be properly communicated to management and a new job safety analysis needs to be performed.
- Inspection and clean up: Maintenance and repairs need to end with an assessment to ensure that the equipment can be declared safe. This information needs to be documented and reported to management. After management coordinates with everyone involved, the area needs to be cleaned, reported cleaned and then released.
- Final step: Go home the same way you left.

