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EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SAFETY

BE EQUIPPED TO MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT.

Equipment maintenance personnel are constantly exposed to numerous safety risks because the field conditions where the equipment is located are always changing. Weather, dust, adjacent equipment operations, and the location of the equipment being maintained are a few factors that need to be considered before diving into the maintenance task.

The following list of work rules is based on lessons learned:

- 01** Always make sure your personal protective equipment (PPE) is on and in good condition. Scratched safety glasses that obscure vision need to be replaced.
- 02** Use three (3) points of contact when mounting or dismounting equipment and watch for slick areas created by excess grease or fuel. Be careful when walking on track equipment to avoid slipping on wet soil.
- 03** Move the equipment to an area that will be safe for work. If the equipment cannot be moved, create a buffer between other equipment in operation with a windrow of dirt, and cones of caution tape.
- 04** Outriggers will be extended before engaging truck cranes. Check for powerlines or other restrictions before hoisting.
- 05** Lock and tag out equipment before starting maintenance or repairs.
- 06** Do not open hydraulic fluid reservoirs that are under pressure. When changing hoses, bleed off pressure with protection before uncoupling.
- 07** Always consider the potential for “stored energy” before starting an activity. Releasing parts could cause tracks, arms, cables, and other parts to spring. Block or control stored energy when required.
- 08** Wheels should be checked before starting.
- 09** Equipment attachments should be lowered. If the activity requires a suspension, use the safety hoist guard.