VIRGINIA PRO SERVICES

VPS TOOLBOX TALK

Plate Compactors & Rammers

TRADE: EXCAVATION & SITEWORK	LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES	USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE

Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Before work starts, use this Plate Compactors & Rammers talk to cover vibration, crush injuries and loss of control. Point out the equipment, work zone and controls the crew will rely on today. Heavy equipment injuries are rarely about speed alone. Blind spots, changing ground conditions, unexpected pedestrian movement and poor communication put people where operators cannot see them or cannot stop in time.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS

While performing Plate Compactors & Rammers, the spotter steps away to handle another task and the operator can no longer see the full travel or swing area. Production is waiting. What is the correct response before movement resumes?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Walk the equipment route and mark pedestrian separation, blind corners, edges and overhead hazards.
- Complete the operator/pre-use inspection and confirm seat belt, alarms, mirrors/cameras and controls are functional.
- Agree on spotter positions and the stop signal before the machine moves.
- Inspect controls, handles and guards before use.
- Keep feet and coworkers clear of the compaction path.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Inspect controls, handles and guards before use.
- Keep feet and coworkers clear of the compaction path.
- Use hearing and other PPE appropriate to the equipment and environment.
- Shut down before clearing material, refueling or servicing.
- If the setup changes or the control for vibration, crush injuries and loss of control is not working, stop the job and fix it before continuing.

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Backing or swinging with a blind area that has not been cleared or controlled.
- Operating near edges/slopes/overhead hazards without a deliberate route and spotter plan.
- Assuming pedestrians will see or hear the machine and stay out of the way.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- The operator loses a clear travel path, spotter communication or required visibility.
- Ground conditions, slope, overhead hazards or edge conditions are outside the planned operating limits.
- Pedestrians, vehicles or other trades enter the equipment operating zone unexpectedly.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. What are the operator's blind spots in today's setup, and exactly where must pedestrians stay out?
2. What ground, slope, edge, overhead, or clearance condition could put this machine outside its safe operating limits?
3. When visibility is restricted, who is spotting and what exact signal means STOP?
4. How does the risk change when the machine is loaded, backing, turning, or using the planned attachment?
5. What is the correct response before movement resumes?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB

Stand where a pedestrian could be missed and make sure the operator/crew understand that blind spot.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW

Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

Reference: 29 CFR 1926.300 - General Tool Safety and Guarding

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ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Plate Compactors & Rammers

Project / Job:		**Date:**	
Talk leader:		**Location:**	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
2			
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

[ ] Crew can point to the main hazard.	[ ] Critical control is in place and usable.
[ ] The responsible person/check is clear.	[ ] Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.