

Location: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

TOPIC C080: MINI EXCAVATORS

Introduction: Mini excavators are available in many compact sizes. The machine you operate needs to be compatible to the area, the site conditions, and the restrictions that apply to its movement. The size of the attachments you use must match the size of the excavator. Here are the safety guidelines to follow when operating a mini excavator:

Mini Excavator Safety Guidelines:

- Read and understand the operator’s manual. Excavators have different features and operating procedures
- Make sure you’re trained in the proper operations and maintenance of the excavator you’ll use
- Inspect your excavator before each use. Look for cracks, defects and damage, and repair or replace defective parts immediately. Make sure the safety pins are engaged at all times
- Don’t modify couplers or the excavator; modifications can cause serious injury to those working with or near the machine. Always use the lifting eye provided
- Inspect the hydraulic lines for leaks using paper or cardboard, to prevent hand injuries. Repair or replace leaking or damaged fittings and hoses before you operate the machine. Hydraulic hoses with nylon sheaths are for burst and abrasion protection
- Know your machine’s controls and characteristics before operating in tight areas. Ensure all control levers are fully functional
- Inspect the throttle, utility power outlet, and vents for heating, cooling, and defrosting if the cab is enclosed
- Make sure the cab rotates freely and the boom pivots properly. Make sure your push blade is working properly. Don’t hit the blade with the bucket
- Inspect the bucket, hammer, swivel, shear, crusher, or thumb depending on the attachment you’re using. Check fasteners, bolts, pins, etc. Check for wear and damage. Repair or replace when necessary
- Always know the limits of your machine. Muddy worksites may not be accessible to your mini excavator. Inspect and evaluate the working conditions. Inspect the tracks for wear and damage
- Make sure the engine lockout system is working properly
- Always wear your seat belt. Retractable belts will provide greater comfort and safety
- Never remove any guards. When performing maintenance, remember to put the guard back before operating
- If the engine compartment has a guard, check the fasteners for loosening caused by the machine’s vibration
- Check the fan guard. Tighten any loose fasteners. Ensure the positive terminal electrical covers are in place
- Make sure warning decals are in place and readable. Replace with new ones immediately
- Excavators should have slip-resistant steps that give you a firm footing when entering and exiting
- Verify the back-up/travel alarm is working, if not you’ll need a signal person to direct traffic
- Before digging, locate all known underground utilities. If in doubt, have the local utility come out and identify the locations of the lines
- Place barricades or tape around heavily traffic areas. Make sure you have a fire extinguisher available
- When you’re working in tight areas check your proximity to electrical and gas lines
- When working on slopes, don’t let the machine tip over. Know your machines stability limits
- Lower the digging arm before exiting. Never leave your machine running unattended
- Park your machine in a safe place. Mini excavators are a big toy to children
- Use all safety precautions when hauling your machine

PPE: To protect yourself, always wear your hard hat, safety glasses or goggles, a dust mask if conditions are dry or there is blowing dust is blowing, and ear plugs or earmuffs when necessary.

Employee Attendance: (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

These guidelines do not supersede local, state or federal regulations, and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.