



April 14 — Wear It Right

Employee was not wearing seat belt in telehandler.	Reminded employee that he needs to wear the seat belt
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An employee was operating a telehandler without wearing a seatbelt. The machine was running. The task was moving forward. Nothing seemed wrong.

But seatbelts on equipment aren't there for normal operation. They're there for the moment something goes wrong.

Telehandlers are powerful machines with high centers of gravity. Uneven ground, sudden turns, or load shifts can change stability quickly. And when that happens, the operator doesn't get to choose how they respond.

Without a seatbelt, the instinct is to jump. Or get thrown.

And that's where injuries turn serious crushed limbs, rollovers, and impacts that could have been prevented by staying secured inside the operator zone.

The machine didn't change. The risk didn't change.

Only the level of protection did.

This wasn't about not knowing the rule. It was about skipping something that didn't seem necessary in the moment.

Hazards

- Ejection from equipment
- Impact injuries
- Crushing injuries during rollover
- Equipment instability
- Loss of operator control
- Line of fire exposure to motion energy

Stats

- Mobile equipment incidents are a leading cause of workplace injuries
- Seatbelt use significantly reduces injury severity in rollovers
- Many equipment-related injuries occur during routine operation
- Operators not wearing seatbelts are at a much higher risk of fatal injury

Words of Wisdom

- The belt matters when things go wrong
- Stay in the seat stay in control
- Protection isn't about comfort it's about outcome

Pause and Think

When everything is going smoothly, safety steps can start to feel unnecessary. You're in control, the ground looks stable, and the task feels routine. That's when it's easiest to skip something small like a seatbelt.

But those small steps aren't there for when things go right. They're there for when they don't.

And when that moment comes, there's no time to go back and fix it.

- Am I wearing my seatbelt every time I operate equipment?
- Do I treat routine tasks as lower risk than they actually are?
- Am I relying on control instead of protection?
- Would I correct someone else skipping this step?