



SHARP START



August 7 — The Most Important Part of the Job Happens Before the Engine Starts

Operating Gradall without inspection	Stopped task, fully inspected Gradall and continued work
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The safest equipment operator...

...is the one who finds the problem before the machine does.

A Gradall was observed being operated before a required pre-use inspection had been completed. While the equipment may have appeared to be operating normally, skipping the inspection eliminated the opportunity to identify mechanical issues, damaged components, fluid leaks, or safety system failures before they became hazards.

Pre-use inspections aren't about checking a box or satisfying a requirement. They give operators the chance to identify problems while the equipment is still parked instead of discovering them while lifting a load, traveling across uneven ground, or working near other employees. A few minutes spent inspecting equipment can prevent injuries, property damage, and costly downtime.

Every operator becomes the first line of defense before a piece of equipment goes to work. Taking ownership of that responsibility protects not only the operator but everyone working around the equipment. A thorough inspection today may prevent tomorrow's incident.

Hazards

- Mechanical failure during operation
- Hydraulic leaks or component failures
- Tire or steering defects
- Malfunctioning brakes or controls
- Equipment damage
- Injury to operators or nearby workers

Words of Wisdom

An inspection takes only a few minutes. Recovering from an equipment failure can take weeks—or much longer. Never assume yesterday's safe equipment is still safe today.

Pause and Think

- What problems could a pre-use inspection identify before work begins?
- Have you ever found a defect during an inspection that prevented a breakdown or incident?
- Why do operators sometimes skip inspections on equipment they use every day?
- How does completing an inspection protect not only you but everyone working nearby?
- What part of your equipment inspection deserves a closer look today?

Closing Thought

Every shift starts with a decision. You can either spend a few minutes looking for problems before work begins—or risk finding them when it matters most.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something