



August 31 — Don't Assume the Inspection Was Done

When I went to get the sky track and do its inspection, I noticed that no one had filled one out for this week. I did notice that others had been operating it the day before by 2 different contractors.

So went and got a new inspection sheet and inspected and filled out the sheet. There is a reason this needs to be done daily and that helps prevent failure in the equipment.

Just because someone used it...

...doesn't mean it's ready to use.

Before operating a SkyTrak, an employee went to perform the required pre-use inspection and noticed that the weekly inspection had not been completed. Even more concerning, the equipment had already been used the previous day by two different contractors without anyone documenting the required inspection.

It's easy to assume that because equipment has been operating, someone else has already completed the inspection. That assumption can allow mechanical defects, safety system failures, or other hazards to go unnoticed. Inspections aren't simply paperwork—they're an opportunity to identify problems before they result in equipment damage or serious injury.

The employee did exactly what we expect. Rather than assuming everything was acceptable, they verified the inspection status before putting the equipment into service. That simple act of stopping to check prevented the possibility of operating equipment that had not been properly inspected.

Hazards

- Operating uninspected equipment
- Mechanical failures
- Equipment malfunction
- Missing documentation
- Complacency and assumptions
- Potential struck by or caught between incidents

Words of Wisdom

Never let someone else's assumption become your risk.

Pause and Think

- Do you complete and document required inspections before operating equipment?
- Have you ever assumed someone else already performed an inspection?
- What could happen if a defect goes unnoticed because an inspection was skipped?
- Are you verifying equipment is safe, or simply trusting that it is?
- What responsibility do we each have before putting equipment into service?

Closing Thought

Every inspection is an opportunity to prevent an incident. Don't assume the person before you completed the inspection or noticed a problem. Take ownership, verify the equipment is safe, and document the inspection before putting it into service.