

Asphalt paving is one of the higher risk occupations in the construction industry. In addition to the danger of working near heavy equipment, complex machinery, and hot asphalt, there is frequently the hazard of working close to vehicle traffic. Though very specific safeguards can be put in place against the hazards of working in traffic, asphalt workers must always be aware that the traffic is ultimately controlled by individual drivers who may be inexperienced, unskilled, inattentive, or even impaired. There is often no safety guard against these drivers other than the asphalt workers' constant alertness, and attention to the conditions of the jobsite and fellow workers.

General heavy equipment precautions which apply to paving equipment:

- Equipment and systems must be checked for proper operation at the start of each shift.
- General repairs must not be made to powered equipment until workers are protected from movement of equipment or its parts.
- Before repairs are made, workers must comply with the Lockout/Tagout requirements.
- All vehicles must be equipped with a backup alarm and a manually operated warning device.

Precautions for paving equipment operations and crew:

- Asphalt material ready for application can cause serious burns. It will quickly heat metal tools or equipment in contact with the asphalt. The material itself should be treated as a hazard.
- All personnel must always wear their high-visibility warning vests and any required Personal Protective Equipment.
- Make sure personnel involved in work are well trained for the job assigned and familiar with your crew's particular routine.
- This includes Flaggers and Police Officers; they must be briefed at the beginning of the day.
- Do not move between the paving machine and backing trucks.
- Do not work or stand near the hopper of the paving machine when a materials truck is making its initial dump. Asphalt packed or settled in the truck bed from travel may suddenly break free and discharge, cresting over the hopper.
- Exercise caution when trucks are entering or exiting the work area or are braking.
- Idle down any piece of equipment and securely set the parking brake before leaving the operator's station, even if only for a short time.
- Do not leave the paving machine unattended while the screen is heating.
- Paving machine operators must signal any time they intend to resume travel from a stationary position.



Watch out for co-workers; personnel concentrating on their assigned duties may be completely unaware of possible hazards. It is important to **COMMUNICATE** with co-workers and be always **ALERT**. It only takes seconds for a vehicle or a machine to move into your path!

