Asphalt Rollers

Asphalt rollers are used to compact and finish asphalt. Rollers vary in design from nine wheel pneumatics, to dual steel drums, to a combination of pneumatic tire and steel drum rollers. Rollers range in size and corresponding weight from two ton machines for smaller residential jobs, to twelve ton machines and higher for commercial and highway work. These machines appear deceptively slow, however they can move quickly and can easily cause injuries. The vibratory feature on these rollers increases the compaction force of the machine beyond its actual weight. There are few obstacles which can prevent the machine from doing its job - flattening anything in its path. Following are guidelines for the safe operation of asphalt rollers:

OSHA requirements which pertain to asphalt rollers:
• Operators must be properly trained to operate the machine safely and are knowledgeable in the hazards associated with asphalt paving operations.
• 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 Lockout/Blockout requirements.
• Whenever equipment operations encroach on a public thoroughfare, a system of traffic controls must be used.
• Machines must be equipped with a manually operated warning device.
• Equipment and systems must be checked for proper operation and condition at the start of each shift.
• Do not fuel the roller while running or when the engine is hot.
• Any pinch points which pose a treat to the operator during normal operation must be guarded. Do not work or stand in the articulating area of a roller any time the machine is running.

Safety guidelines specific to asphalt rollers:
Modern asphalt rollers use hydraulics to drive the wheels or drums. These drives rely on shuttling the hydraulic drive control to a neutral position for their service brakes. Operators must be aware that this type of control allows the roller to stop or start all movement quickly, and that this control is normally sensitive to any slight movement of the lever.
• Ensure that all controls are in the neutral, stop, or off position before starting the roller.
• Ensure that the area is clear of all personnel before moving the roller.
• Check water spraying or drip systems before operating the machine on asphalt.
• Do not engage the vibratory mechanism until the machine is traveling.
• Be prepared for quick starts and stops.
• Always set the parking brake when leaving the operators station while the engine is running. Do not rely on the hydraulic direction control to hold the machine at a stop since the vibration may shift the control to drive.
• Keep speed low when traveling over rough grade.
• Never place any body part directly in front of, or behind a roller drum while the engine is running.
• Stop the roller slowly, evenly, and completely before reversing direction.
• Do not operate the roller too close behind the paving machine when personnel are on the screed.
• Ensure that all co-workers are aware of the roller when operating near personnel. Never assume a person is aware of your presence.
• Always be aware of traffic movement and position when operating the roller in areas not closed to traffic.
• Do not operate the roller too close to vehicles, curb work, or structures; use a hand compactor to finish tight areas.
• Do not operate the roller in vibratory mode in the vicinity of excavations without first notifying the supervisor of the excavation operations.

Conclusion: The hazards of working with asphalt rollers are avoidable by using common sense, being an alert operator, providing proper training, and following the guidelines listed above.
Asphalt Rollers - (Continued from front)

Foreman’s Check List:
- Posting Notices Accessible - Identify Location
- GCC Code of Safe Practices Accessible
- USA Notified/Lines Marked (800) 227-2600
- PG&E Notified/10’ Rule (800) 743-5000
- Required Cal/OSHA Permit(s) obtained
- Emergency Exit Routes/Meeting Location Identified
- Special Hazards Identified
- Fire Extinguishers Charged & Accessible
- First Aid Kit Stocked and Accessible
- Trenching operations & requirements reviewed
- Flagging Operations Reviewed
- Housekeeping/Storage & Handling Requirements Reviewed
- Personal Protective Equipment Reviewed
- Equipment Inspected (faulty/damaged equipment must be tagged and returned to the Santa Rosa Yard)
- MSDS are available for all substances present at the jobsite
- Hazard inspections and corrections are documented

Reminders:
- Work-related injuries MUST be reported immediately
- GCC uses designated medical providers for treatment of work-related injuries
- All accidents and near-miss incidents must be reported
- No employee can enter a trench exceeding 5’ deep unless advised that it is safe by the competent person
- MSDS sheets are available for review - do not work with any product that you are not familiar with
- Do not enter areas where substances are being used by other contractors, unless trained on the proper safety precautions
- Horseplay is not permitted
- Daily jobsite walkthroughs must be performed
- No employee is permitted to perform any task that they have not been trained to perform
- All potential and/or identified hazards must be reported to allow for immediate correction and communication of exposure to other workers
- Discuss parking arrangements for the project

Special Topics for Project (address specific exposures, MSDS reviewed, etc.):

Safety Recommendations & Employee Comments:

Tailgate Meeting Attended By (employees are required to sign/print name):

Signature includes confirmation of the following:
- In the last week I have not suffered any work-related injury or illness that has not been reported to my Supervisor
- In the last week I have not been denied my authorized 10-minute breaks
- In accordance with Prop 65 requirements, I have been notified that I may be working in areas, or with products, which contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause Cancer and Birth Defects or Other Reproductive Harm

Su firma incluye la confirmación de lo siguiente:
- En la semana pasada no he sufrido ninguna lesión o enfermedad relacionada con el trabajo que no haya sido reportada a mi Supervisor.
- En la semana pasada no he sido prevenido de tomar mis descansos autorizados de 10 minutos.
- De acuerdo con los requerimientos de la Prop. 65, se me ha notificado que yo pudiera estar trabajando en áreas o con productos que contienen químicos conocidos por el Estado de California como causantes de Cáncer, Defectos de Nacimiento u otro Daño Reproductivo.

Safety Prize Winner: ______________________