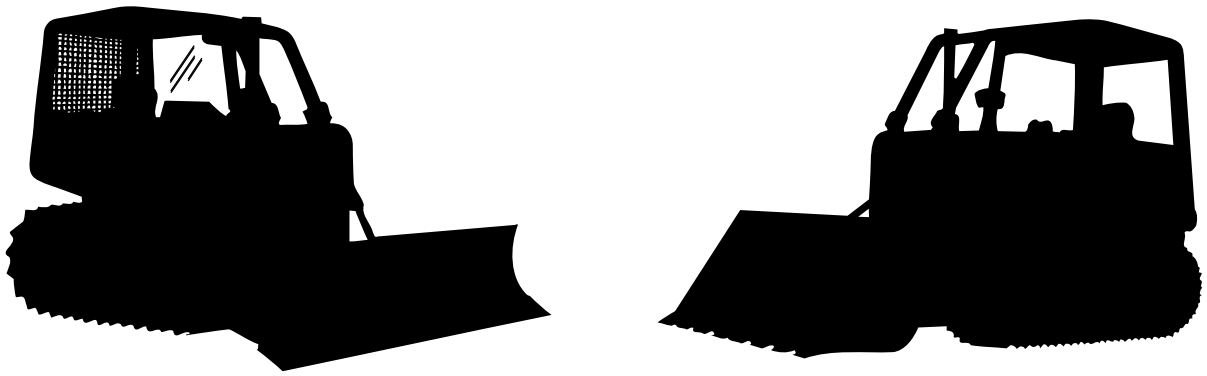
Task Training Supplement:
Starting Crawler Tractor/Loaders Safely

Excerpted from the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) *Crawler Tractor/Loader Safety Manual For Operating and Maintenance Personnel,* FORM CLT80-1



The information provided in this publication supplements the specific information about your machine that is contained in the manufacturer's manual(s). Before you operate the machine, make sure you have the manufacturer's manual(s) for this machine and all attachments. If the manufacturer's manuals are missing, obtain replacement manuals from your employer, equipment dealer or directly from the manufacturer. Read and understand all manuals.

This publication is another in a series of the safe operation of machinery published by AEM. For additional publications, visit our website at **www.safetymaterials.org**.

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An MSHA Cooperative Partnership

Start safely

Starting Aids

If jumper cables are used, follow the instructions in manufacturer's manual(s). The operator must be in the operator's seat when jump starting engine so that the machine will be under control when engine starts. Jump starting is a two person operation. A battery explosion or a run-away machine could result from improper jump starting procedures. Never jump-start a frozen battery. (See page 43)

Ether Cold-Start Fluid is highly flammable and explosive. Before using it, always read the instructions on the ether container and the instructions in the manufacturer's manual(s).

Do NOT use ether if the engine is equipped with a glow plug type preheater or other intake manifold type preheater.

After Starting Engine

Observe gauges, instruments, and warning lights to assure that they are functioning and their readings are within the operating range.

Run An Operating Check

Do not use a machine that is not in proper operating condition. It is the OPERATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY to check the condition of all systems, and to run the check in a safe area.

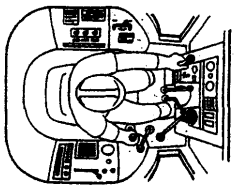
Test Controls

Make sure the engine is operating correctly. With the transmission in neutral, test engine speed control. Operate each equipment control lever to make sure all functions are correct.

Operate the shift control(s) to insure correct operation in forward, neutral, and reverse. (14)

Check the parking brake and service brakes according to the manufacturer's manual(s). Test steering — right and left — while moving slowly.

14
RIGHT



WARNING: BE CERTAIN YOU CAN CONTROL SPEED, DIRECTION, AND BRAKING BEFORE OPERATING MACHINE.

If there's something wrong, don't use the machine.

Work safely

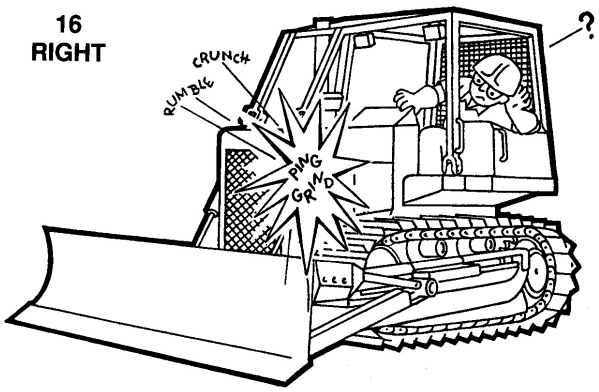
Remember These Rules

If equipped with ROPS, stay in the operator's seat <u>at all times</u> when operating and keep your seat belt/operator restraint fastened and comfortably snug. Be in control of your machine at all times. (15) In the event of a rollover, stay in the seat with seat belt fastened.

Assure yourself that the work area is clear of all persons.

15
RIGHT

16
RIGHT



Look and listen for malfunctions. Stop if a malfunction or erratic operation is detected. Correct or report trouble <u>immediately.</u> (16)

If you don't think you can stop — don't start.