



## SAFETY BRIEF 2010-5

### *SAFE MOTOR GRADER OPERATIONS*

Maintaining awareness of people, other machines, and obstacles is important to safe motor grader operation. Operators of small and mid-size Motor Graders also face the challenge of safe operation in traffic, given that the machines are often driven to the work site. Also, in snow removal operations, a road open to traffic is the work site.

Operational safety means staying alert. It only takes a brief distraction to cause injury or equipment damage. Please remember these safety tips while operating your motor grader:

1. Read the operator's manual.
2. Always perform a pre-trip inspection.
3. Clean windows, lights, etc. and any debris from floor of grader.
4. Do not let anyone ride along (inside or outside).
5. Look, then check again, before backing up.
6. Drive at a slow speed in congested areas.
7. Give the right-of-way to loaded vehicles.
8. Watch for overhead dangers.
9. Know your work area: check weight limitations, types of surfaces, and clearances.
10. Report defective equipment immediately.
11. Stay focused on the job.
12. Select a safe parking area.
13. Wear hardhats and seatbelts.
14. Wear safety gloves and appropriate safety gear.
15. Remove ignition key when leaving grader.
16. Ground the blade when leaving grader unattended.
17. Use colored flags at each end of moldboard when blading.
18. Shift blade to center and lock it when parking.
19. Be aware that boarding and exiting grader may put you in danger of slipping, tripping or falling. Use a three-point (two feet and one hand or one foot and two hands) approach when entering or exiting the cab.

20. Communicate with traffic:
  - Use flashing safety lights when blading.
  - Keep headlights on whenever operating.
21. Be alert to traffic waiting to pass, and provide the driving public passing opportunities.
22. Use signing and proper flaggers to warn traffic of work in progress.
23. Be sure your signs and locations conform to the **Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices** (<http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/>)



***Be Sure the Following Items are always Onboard:***

A slow moving vehicle triangle for the back of the grader.

A visible fire extinguisher; know how to use it and make sure it is properly charged.

A hand shovel in good condition.

The operator's manual.

***Safety Equipment Suggestions***

Reflective Vest

Hard Hat

Radio or Phone

Road Work Ahead Sign

Close Fitting Clothing

Work Gloves

Ear Protection

Safety Work Shoes

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