

# SAFETY TALK



NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY • UPPER GREAT PLAINS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE • NORTH DAKOTA LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



## 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 Grader also face the challenge of safe operations 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 our 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 the grader.
4. Do not let anyone ride along (inside or outside).
5. Look, then check again, before backing up. Know your blind spots.
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 seatbelts at all times.
14. Wear safety gloves and appropriate safety gear for all jobs.
15. Remove ignition key when leaving grader.
16. Ground the blade when leaving a grader unattended.
17. Use colored flags at each end of the moldboard when blading.
18. Shift blade to center and lock it when parking.
19. Be aware that boarding and exiting the grader may put you in danger of slipping, tripping and 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 the traffic:
  - Use flashing safety lights when blading, ensure they are clean and working.
  - 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* [MUTCD FHWA](#)

### Safety Equipment Suggestions:

Reflective Vest  
Hardhat  
Radio or phone  
Road Work Ahead Sign  
Close Fitting Clothing  
Work Gloves  
Safety Work Shoes

### Be sure the following items are always onboard:

- A slow-moving vehicle triangle for the back of the grader (clean and not cracked).
- A visible fire extinguisher: know how to use it and have it checked annually.
- First aid kit, safely mounted in the cab.

## Safety Talk Sign-in Sheet Topic Safe Motor Grader Operations

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Crew: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor/Talk Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name

Signature

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