WHEEL BALANCER MACHINE SAFETY TIPS

Be Prepared
- Ensure you have been trained in the use of the balancer
- Inspect the machine to ensure no obvious defects: broken cover, damaged controls, damaged fastener
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE):
  - Safety glasses
  - Non-slip safety shoes
- Remove rings, bracelets, watches, necklaces before work
- Tie back long hair
- Wear tight-fitting clothing and/or roll up sleeves to prevent snagging

Work Safe
- Lift wheel properly:
  - Grip the wheel securely
  - Lift with the leg muscles; bend at the hips and keep the back straight (i.e., maintain natural curve in low back)
  - Keep the wheel close to your body
  - Turn your feet and do not twist the back
- Use the proper centering cone for the wheel
- Firmly secure wheel with the retainer
- Remove large rocks from tire treads before starting
- Do not place any body part past the threshold of the cover
- Never open the cover while a balancer is running
- Do not grasp rotating parts
- Do not defeat any safeguarding system

Finish Right
- Clean the floor and work area around the machine
- Ensure all warning signs are readable
- Use a lockout procedure for cleaning and maintenance
- Defective equipment must be tagged and removed from service
- Clean and put away PPE
- Let your supervisor know of any safety concerns and damage to the balancer

Speak up!
If you see a hazard, let a supervisor know.
Everyone plays a role in your safety and health.

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HOW TO USE SAFETY CHECKS FOR WORKERS

Safety checks provide information for workers on how to work safely with specific hazards. Safety Check information can be used in orientation training, tailgate talks or even in one-on-one coaching. Use the following tips to help you communicate this information in your workplace:

- Use language that is consistent with the workplace
- Consider the work you do and specific examples of how these hazards can result in injury or illness
- Explain how the safe work practices will help prevent injury and illness
- Wherever possible, use the actual tools, equipment, materials and PPE to demonstrate proper use
- Ask specific questions during your talk to check understanding
- Keep a record of each talk that you deliver (see the form below)
- Post a copy of the Safety Check for workers to reference

OWNERS AND SUPERVISORS

Have you taken reasonable measures to control this hazard using the hierarchy of controls?

- Providing well-engineered machines with appropriate safeguarding
- Policies and procedures for proper use and maintenance
- Inspecting and repairing equipment regularly
- Training staff on how to recognize, assess and control balancer hazards
- Implementing and enforcing PPE program
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