



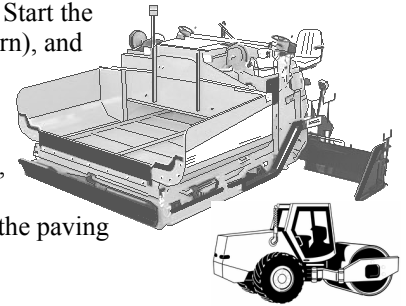
Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Finish Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Foreman/Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic 405: Asphalt Paving Machines (Lay-Down Machines)**

**Introduction:** Paving machines come in a wide variety of sizes for different job requirements. However, their operations and safety requirements are similar regardless of size. There are numerous hazards to be aware of when working with or around paving machines. Following are guidelines for the safe operation of paving machines:

- **Employers must ensure** that operators are trained in the safe operation of paving machines, as well as safety in asphalt paving operations.
- **Wear proper** personal protective equipment during all paving operations including sturdy high top boots, heavy work gloves, eye protection, and hearing protection when needed. Always wear long sleeve shirts and pants when paving. Also wear approved high visibility work vests properly tied or snapped, and avoid loose fitting clothes which could be an entanglement hazard.
- **Ensure that** all controls are in the “off” or neutral position before starting the paving machine. Start the machine only from the operator’s station. Ensure that the brakes, steering, warning devices (horn), and all safety devices are working properly before operating the machine.
- **Operators must know** the location of all associated workers in the vicinity of the paver at all times. Do not move the machine or operate systems unless you are sure all personnel are clear.
- **When operating** a paving machine alert personnel of your intentions, such as raising, lowering, or extending the screed, raising or lowering the hopper, etc.
- **Do not allow** ground personnel to work in areas with less than three feet of clearance between the paving machine and fixed structures or objects such as walls, retaining walls, fences, vehicles, etc.
- **Do not allow** laborers to shovel asphalt from the screed area while the augers are running.
- **Do not run** the flight chains when laborers are shoveling from the hopper, or during cleaning operations until personnel are clear.
- **Do not stand, walk, or work** between the paving machine and asphalt trucks backing to the machine for dumping.
- **Do not allow** the roller to operate too close to the paver or ground personnel.
- **Do not leave** the machine unattended, or out of line of sight, while it is running, or while the screed burners are lit.
- **Never assume** asphalt truck drivers can see and will avoid you. Always have truck drivers acknowledge that they see you.
- **Provide specific instructions** to asphalt delivery drivers on what is required of them before proceeding.
- **Clean the paving machine** after each use to keep systems operating safely and properly. Ensure that the screed exhaust and heating channels are clear of asphalt and debris.



**NOTE:** By far the greatest number of serious and fatal injuries associated with paving operations and paving machines are caused by vehicle traffic which was not properly controlled, or driver errors. Any training for paving machine safety must discuss the importance of proper traffic control.

- **Use traffic control** on every job, even on small private parking lots to prevent the entry of unauthorized traffic. Always use the most restrictive controls possible on every job. Local codes vary for traffic control and must always be consulted when unknown, or working in unfamiliar jurisdictions.
- **Never assume** vehicle drivers know how to follow traffic control directions (cones, barricades, etc.). Always watch traffic and watch out for your co-workers. In high traffic areas, post a look-out to watch for developing hazardous traffic situations. Check your traffic control measures before beginning work and frequently during work.
- **Ensure that** all workers wear proper high visibility reflective work vests or clothing.



**Conclusion:** See Tailgate/Toolbox meetings #156: Asphalt Paving Safety, #347: Asphalt Rollers, #158: Flagger Safety, and #73: Identifying Pavement Markings and Traffic Barricades for additional paving safety information.

**Work Site Review**

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Personnel Safety Violations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Employee Signatures:** \_\_\_\_\_ (My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)


**Foreman/Supervisor’s Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.