MOL Initiative
Until June 26, 2020, the Ministry of Labour (MOL) will run an initiative focusing on motor vehicle and mobile equipment hazards.

Working on or around heavy equipment is considered to be high-risk work. If an incident occurs, the result can often be a life-altering injury (i.e. broken bone or head injury) and in many cases, loss of life. Incidents involving heavy equipment deeply affect not only the person who is injured but also the person operating the equipment or any co-workers nearby.

Motor Vehicle and Mobile Equipment
MOL Inspectors will also check that:
• Workplace parties use and maintain equipment per manufacturer’s instructions
• Employers ensure equipment operators are competent
• Workplace parties have planned the operation of equipment and pedestrian traffic
• Use of PPE including high visibility safety apparel as required and employers provide competent signaler(s)

Safe Operation of Heavy Equipment
Before operating the equipment, perform a walk around inspection to ensure that everything is in proper working order (as per the SWP – Heavy Equipment – page 109 of our H&S Manual).

- If the equipment comes with a restraining device, the operator is required to wear it.
- Use a competent signaler if the operator’s view of the load or the intended path of travel is obstructed
- Never get closer than the minimum distance to overhead power lines
- Ensure there is proper access and egress to the equipment
- The operator must always be at the controls when equipment parts or loads are being lifted

Safe Operation of Motor Vehicle
Driving hazards can result in a variety of injuries, ranging from minor bruises to much more serious injuries and even death. There are a number of actions that you can take to prevent motor vehicle incidents:

✓ Pay attention to your surroundings and drive according to the conditions.
✓ Plan your route and leave enough time to make your trip safely; keep a safe travelling distance.
✓ Do not speed – **speeding is monitored and will not be tolerated!**
✓ Avoid distractions – handheld personal electronic devices must not be used while driving vehicles.

Summary
It is difficult to fully eliminate the hazards that result in motor vehicle and mobile equipment incidents, but proper planning can help to eliminate exposure to these risks. Evaluate your work tasks to see if there are any unnecessary risks due to the hazards mentioned.

“**Safety Is Not A Feeling – It’s An Ability**”