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Sample General Safe Work Practice for Grader

Blading Single & Tandem Blading

- Activate warning lights.
- Position grader to blade in direction of travel.
- Place cone in center of road directly behind grader to forewarn motorists approaching from the rear.
- Place windrow as close to center of road as possible.
- Ensure sufficient space for traffic in both lanes.
- Blade right side of the road with traffic direction.
- Be aware of hazards higher than road surface (bridges, stones, etc).
- Yield to traffic when around or crossing a bridge.
- Make frequent visual checks rearward for any large rocks or hazardous objects placed in the windrow or on the driving surface.
- To exit unit lower mouldboard to ground, set park brake and exits cab using 3 point contact. Be aware of traffic and do not exit cab until dust clears.
- Care must be taken when removing an object with the grader, ensure adequate line of sight before commencing removal.
- Ensure windrow does not exceed 10 Km.
- Be aware that road may be narrow so if meeting traffic yield right of way - as possible. Also, if shoulders are soft or if the road is narrow motor graders may have to pull off the road to let traffic pass (e.g. big trucks or wide loads).
- Pick a safe location to terminate windrow.
- Check for traffic before entering back onto the road surface.
- Watch for steps and tire clearance while repositioning the mouldboard.
- If in the event of a mechanical failure make all possible attempts to remove grader from road surface, inform supervisor of situation and clearly mark the grader.
- Upon arrival at starting point operator exits cab using three point contact and retrieves cone.

Tandem Blading

- Once lead grader has traveled approximately 300 metres, the second grader positions mouldboard and blades windrow across road.
- Distance between motor graders should be between 300-500 meters.
- Maintain visual contact.
- Maintain communications to ensure traffic accommodation.

Please note: This document is for information purposes only as a guide. The safe job procedures (SJP) and safe work practices (SWP) created for your workplace should reflect your organizations processes, equipment and hazards as identified by a hazard analysis. Construction Safety Nova Scotia does not assume responsibility for the use of information in this document. If assistance is needed to complete a SWP and SJP for your organization please contact CSNS member services at constructionsafetyns.ca or 1.800.971.3888.



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- If lead grader is forced to stop, communicate with the second grader to advise him of the situation.
- In adverse conditions, rear grader may have to stop to allow traffic to pass.
- In extremely dry conditions, blading operations may need to be suspended, dust control operations may be required.
- Continue tandem blading process until completed, until end of shift or blading suspension due to adverse weather. Spot Blading
- Spot blading gravel operations may require the grader to work in the lane of oncoming traffic.
- Take great care in areas with limited visibility due to hills, curves and bridges. Safe Operating Practice Grader Operations Workers must be trained/competent and aware of associated hazards. Use the “Take Ten” tool if needed. Trainees must work under supervision.
- Operator should be prepared at all times to exit the road in the event of traffic approaching from both directions simultaneously.
- If grade is too steep to allow safe exit from the road surface, operator should pull over as far as safely possible and stop grader.

Pulling Side Slope

- Blade with the flow of traffic.
- Extra care must be taken at culverts and big stones that may be close to surface.
- Material near bridge wings or railway crossings should not be disturbed, lift mouldboard when approaching bridges or railway crossings.
- Where possible the grader should be operated on the road surface, if the grader must operate on the side slope extra caution must be exercised to maintain control of the grader. Machine Patching
- Set up work zone and prepare road surface.
- Dump truck dumps or spreads material as required. Caution spreading with truck in reverse. (Temperature of product, visibility, depressions)
- Equipment or workers level material in surface defect area, followed by packer or steel roller at a safe distance.
- Work in one lane at a time.
- Care and caution should be taken because use of several related work practices during operation

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