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Sample General Safe Work Practice for Tamper

- Read and understand the manual that accompanies your plate tamper.
- Don PPE before beginning the task. Ensure clothing fits properly.
- Inspect the work area
- If the work area is an enclosed space, ensure adequate lighting and ventilation. If necessary, obtain a properly calibrated CO monitor.
- Consult the Job Hazard Analysis or any site rules imposed by the client to see if exhaust scrubbers or spark arrestors are required for the job.
- Ensure that any obstructions, holes, pits, or excavations into which the tamper could fall or overturn are adequately barricaded or fenced off.
- If the area contains any protrusions of rebar, pipes, or conduit, install protective caps.
- Inspect the compactor. Check for leaks, damage, loose or missing parts, or other hazards. If repairs are needed, lockout the machine and notify your supervisor. Only qualified personnel are to perform repairs.
- Start the engine and check for proper operation. Notify your supervisor if the machine does not function properly.
- Begin work. Although plate tampers move slowly, caution must be exercised to ensure they do not pass over the operator's or anyone else's feet. When operating large tampers which can travel in reverse, walk behind and to one side of the machine rather than directly behind it, to reduce the chances of the plate coming in contact with your feet.
- If the unit becomes stuck in soft or damp material, use caution during extraction to avoid MSI. Obtain assistance from co-workers or use mechanical assistance from earthmoving or lifting machinery.
- Plate tampers should not be left running unsupervised due to the possibility that they may start moving on their own. Stop the engine of a plate tamper before leaving the controls for more than a few moments or if you are leaving the area and the machine will be out of sight.
- When the task is completed, shut down the machine and remove it from the work area. Store the machine properly.

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.