

# A Safe Workplace

## A Workplace Safety and Health Manual for Your Community

Section: III-E	Rules Procedures, Practices and Guidelines	Page 1 of 1
		Approved By: Harvey Bostrom
Subject: VLE-15	Operating a Back-hoe	Effective: April 01, 2005
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Refer to part 22 *The Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulations*, Powered Mobile Equipment.

**PPE Required:** Safety glasses, hard hat, hearing protection, steel-toe boots, eye wash bottle

**Warning:** Check with utilities before any work begins  
Secure the work area  
Survey the work area to check for hazards  
Only competent persons allowed to operate heavy machinery.

**Steps:**

1. Backhoes should not be operated with an extending boom unless the equipment is stable under all operating conditions.
2. Ensure the equipment has a rollover protective structure (ROPS) before operating. ROPS must meet SAE Standard J1042 (2003), Operator Protection for General-Purpose Industrial Machines. Contact the regional office regarding equipment that does not have ROPS or a structure that was not commercially manufactured.
3. Ensure sufficient operating room.
4. Use *Starting Equipment Procedure* (section III-E, VLE-5).
5. Check all gauges, lights and the back-up alarm.
6. Check the operation of the bucket, boom, swing by tilting, raising and lowering.
7. Before digging follow the *Excavation Procedure* (section III-C, G-4). **Do Not Dig Blind.**
8. Do not allow anyone near your bucket dumping area.
9. Do not allow any person near the place you are excavating unless absolutely necessary.
10. Park and use *Equipment Turn Off Procedure* (section III-E, VLE-4).
11. Do a circle check before entering the equipment to commence operation. Complete pre-use inspection form or log book.
12. See *Powered Mobile Equipment Procedure* (section III-E, VLE-18) for general instructions to operate powered and mobile equipment.