

## SEE-MORE SAFETY SAYS...



### Pile Driving

When foundations are needed to transmit loads deeper into the ground, pile driving is the answer. Pile driving supports sea walls, piers, ship slips, bridges, archways, earth retention systems, and structures. Sheet piles form continuous vertical retaining walls.

The best safety practices always come from equipment operation and maintenance manuals. The manuals contain safety practices for your particular equipment. To have the best overall safety requirements, manufacturer's manuals should be combined with the OSHA requirements. The following OSHA rules give you an overview of the requirements. Your inspection checklists should contain those that pertain to your operation.

#### Jobsite preparation

Proper personal protective equipment (shoes, gloves, hard-hats, and noise protectors) must be worn during pile driving operations.

Noise level testing should be done for each type of pile driving operation. If noise levels are exceeded, proper hearing protection must be provided.

Fall protection is required on pile driver fixed leads and sheet piling unless you are on a work platform equipped with guardrails or are using stirrups.

Accessible areas around rotating crane superstructures must be barricaded to prevent you from being struck or crushed by the crane.

#### Equipment installation

- Overhead protection, the equivalent of 2-inch planking, which will not obscure the vision of the operator must be provided.
- Guards must be provided across the top of the head block to prevent the cable from jumping out of the sheaves.
- Guys, outriggers, thrustouts, or counterbalances must be provided as necessary to maintain stability of pile driver rigs.

#### Pile driving operations

- Engineers and winchmen must accept signals only from the designated signalmen.
- You must keep clear when piling is being hoisted into the leads.

When anyone is working under the hammer, a blocking device, capable of safely supporting the hammer weight, must be placed in the leads under the hammer.

Pile driving is dangerous construction work. Cranes, engines, exhaust gases, drop hammers, vibratory drivers, lead connections, pile positioning, and cables, all contribute to a noisy, dangerous, operation. However, dangerous does not have to mean unsafe.

IT'S TIME FOR A

