

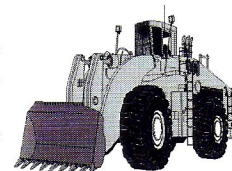
Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 570: Grease Pits

Introduction: Grease pits are necessary for the removal of oils and transmission fluids. Grease pits give the mechanic access to the parts of the equipment that need to be greased. Following are safety guidelines for working in a grease pit.

- **All maintenance must** be done by authorized personnel. Make sure the grease pit is well ventilated.
- **All maintenance** and repairs must be accomplished by following the manufacturer's requirements.
- **Heavy machinery must be** substantially blocked or cribbed, to prevent falling or shifting, before employees are permitted to work under them. All buckets, blades, or similar equipment must be fully lowered.
- **No** heavy equipment shall be worked on, if there is a leak in the fuel system, until the leak has been corrected.
- **Never** drain gas, diesel, or service LPG powered vehicles in, or next to a pit. Vapors create fire and explosive hazards.
- **All** portable and permanent lighting and/or electrical equipment located in the pit must be kept intrinsically safe.
- **Welding** and oxy cutting from a pit **must not be** carried out unless the pit has been purged of all flammable vapors and gases.
- **Have guardrails** in place to prevent anyone from walking into exposed pits. All pits are required to have fixed ladders or stairs.
- **A kickboard must** go around three sides. The side with the fixed access does not have to have a kickboard.
- **Pit safety can be** improved by painting the interior white, with the exterior edges outlined with diagonal black and yellow stripes.
- **Drain your used oil** into a clean container. **Do not mix** any other materials, including water, with used oil.
- **An oil spill** may be as small as an oil can accidentally knocked over, or a leaking hydraulic line. Regardless of the amount of oil spilled, oily waste is generated and needs to be responsibly cleaned up. Always use non-combustible cleaning agents.
- **Clearly identify** and communicate the designated disposal area to all workers. It is good practice to post barricades, signs, and/or "tape off" the designated disposal area. Keep the designated disposal area clean, and free of debris
- **Used oil** contains contaminants such as lead, magnesium, copper, zinc, chromium, arsenic, chlorides, cadmium, and chlorinated compounds. Oil poured down drains, or onto the ground can work its way into our ground and surface waters and cause serious pollution. One gallon of used oil can spoil a million gallons of drinking water.
- **Used oil is recyclable** - Used oil can be re-refined or processed into fuel oil. Unfortunately, not enough oil is being recycled. Of the total lubricating oil sold in the U.S., approximately 40% leaks out of engines, or is burned, and about 45% is recycled. This leaves around 15% missing, representing tens of millions of gallons of oil unaccounted for and probably disposed of improperly.
- **Take your used oil** to a hazardous waste collection facility or a used oil collection site. In addition, many services in your area will accept used motor oil for recycling. Call 1-800-CLEANUP or go on line at www.1800cleanup.org.
- **Be aware** of what is being drained from the crankcase and transmission. Oil and transmission fluids that are drained from heavy equipment and service vehicles contain small shavings of metals that have accumulated from worn parts.
- **Red Rag Safety--Label** one container to be designated as used oil and used grease rags. **Label** one container as cleaning rags for hands and face. Do this to eliminate the risk of using rags that may contain small or even microscopic shavings of metal parts, which can cause cuts to the hands and face.
- **For minor lacerations** where serious blood loss is not a risk, the wound(s) should be cleaned as thoroughly as possible, antibacterial ointment applied, and the appropriate dressing applied.
- **Coveralls or jumpsuits will provide** protection from splatters and spills, and keep contaminants away from underclothing.
- **Wear** hand protection whenever possible to protect against hazardous contaminants that can cause rashes and skin damage.
- **Always wear** safety glasses or safety goggles to protect the eyes. **Wear** steel-toed boots with non-slip treads.



Conclusion: Heavy equipment and service vehicles need constant maintenance. Grease pits provide accessibility for drainage of oils and fluids, as well as lubrication of vital moving parts. Always remember to utilize these safety guidelines when working in grease pits.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Material Safety Data Sheets Reviewed: _____ (Name of Chemical)

Employee Signatures: _____
(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.