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HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



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Pre-Use Equipment Checks

Every day, airline pilots perform **thorough pre-flight checks** before taking off. They never skip this step—no matter how many times they’ve flown that same aircraft. Why? Because the **smallest overlooked issue can lead to catastrophic consequences** in the air.

The same principle applies to us when we use tools, vehicles, or heavy equipment. A **pre-use inspection** is our “pre-flight checklist.”

Think Like a Pilot

- **Pilots don’t assume.** They **verify**—checking controls, gauges, and safety systems.
- **We shouldn’t assume either.** Always check your equipment before use.

What to Check (Examples)

- **Power Tools:** Cords, guards, switches, and grounding.
- **Lifting Equipment:** Slings, hooks, shackles, and load tags.
- **Vehicles & Heavy Equipment:** Brakes, tires, lights, alarms, and fluids.
- **PPE & Gear:** Helmets, gloves, harnesses, and lanyards.

Why It Matters

- Pilots **(and now, you)** know lives depend on their checklist.
- Your pre-use inspection protects **your life, your coworkers, and the jobsite.**

Federal regulations REQUIRE Pre-Use Checks:

- 29 CFR § 1926.1412 — *Cranes and Derricks in Construction (Inspections)*
- 29 CFR § 1926.959 — *Mechanical Equipment (Elevating / Rotating Equipment)*
- 29 CFR § 1910.334 — *Use of Electrical Equipment (Portable Cord-and-Plug Equipment)*
- *Fall Protection* — § 1926.502(d)(21), § 1926.503
- *General Safety / Inspection Requirements* (29 CFR 1926.20 etc.)
- *Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout)* — 29 CFR § 1910.147

Skipping an equipment check is like a pilot skipping a pre-flight inspection—dangerous, careless, and unacceptable.

Before you operate—inspect. You could save a life.



SAFETY ALERT