



## WORKING AROUND RAISED COMPONENTS OF VEHICLES BEST PRACTICES

Many duties of Public Works employees put them in the proximity of components of vehicles which are raised when conducting normal operations, service, or maintenance and in extraordinary circumstances. Workers must be constantly alert for these conditions and keep themselves and others from entering these potential **Crush Zones**.



Departments of Public Works use a lot of equipment to lift heavy objects, including forklifts, backhoes, front-end loaders, etc. Workers may need to work near these vehicles when loads are lifted or when the equipment is in the raised position. Points to remember:

- Do not assign workers a task that requires being under a raised load or vehicle component.
- Operators with a raised load have different visibility and blind spots.
- Do not take a 'shortcut' under a raised load or vehicle component.
- PEOSHA prohibits working in a trench while an excavator is in operation.



Several pieces of equipment (dump trucks, leaf vacuums, sanitation trucks, and sweepers) have lift gates or bodies that raise. Under normal operations, workers are not permitted to go under a raised component.

Workers must ensure blocking mechanisms are properly locked in place during maintenance or repairs. If supports are not provided, proper blocking must be used with such equipment as jack stands or wood cribbing.

- Never rely on hydraulic cylinders alone.
- Never rely on workers to hold components such as hoods. Keep your fingers and toes out of the Crush Zone.
- Ensure all warning labels are in place and legible.