

Peephole Operating

Have you ever seen someone scratch a four inch peephole through the frost on the windshield and drive that way? Have you ever seen this done on the windshield of a piece of off-road equipment? Now is the time of the year for most of us that frost and snow is either upon us or soon will be. Let's make sure we're not guilty of this dangerous shortcut to safely operating our loaders and cranes.

Peephole Operating dramatically reduces the operator's field of vision, creating a hazard for other vehicles and pedestrians. It's difficult or impossible to gain the attention of an operator through a peephole. This makes walking or driving around these machines a real hazard.

To prevent Peephole Operating:

- Take the time each morning (or otherwise as needed) to completely clear not only the front windshield but also the sides and back windows of operators' cabs.
- Consider placing a blanket or tarp over cabs to keep frost, ice and snow from accumulating.
- Keep heaters and defrosters inside cabs in good working order.
- Consider using liquid de-icer to remove light frost. (This can also be used to thaw frozen doors.)
- Park equipment inside buildings where possible.
- Keep window scrapers and brushes or brooms inside cabs for easy access.

As with every safe business practice, the few minutes it takes to clean off a windshield may well save hours later on in terms of injury and property damage prevented. Operators with a clear field of vision are part of working . . .

SAFELY OR NOT AT ALL.

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