

OCTOBER *Safety Talk*

Topic: Safe Operation of Your Ice Surfacing Machine

Whether it's a "Zamboni" an "Olympia" a "John Deere", or any other brand name, your arenas will have some sort of ice surfacing machine.



Operators of these machines will all be exposed to various hazards, some of which will be discussed here.

The machines of previous years produced dangerous amounts of carbon monoxide and nitrogen dioxide. Changes to vehicle emissions through pollution control devices, alternate fuels, electric machines, and better ventilation in buildings, have reduced these hazards; air quality testing should be done if there is any doubt of the exposure levels.

ALWAYS read the manufacturers' manual that came with the machine, and look for additional information online.

The heart of an ice resurfer is the conditioner, a large device dragged behind the vehicle. A large, very sharp blade shaves the surface off the ice, and an auger in front of the blade sweeps the shavings to the center of the conditioner where it's picked up by another auger. Both the augers and the blade need to be replaced periodically – and pose a high risk of injury if not done properly.

Behind the blade, wash water may be sprayed on the ice by nozzles at either end of the conditioner. The wash water is contained in the conditioner. At the rear of the conditioner, a sprinkler pipe wets a cloth towel that lays down clean water to fill any grooves and create a new ice surface.

There's a lot happening inside that machine as it is driven around the ice between periods of the hockey game!

Safety tips for operation

- ▶ Only trained and authorized personnel should operate the machine
- ▶ Read and follow the manual for the machine
- ▶ Keep all guards in place
- ▶ Check all lights, controls and warning devices
- ▶ Mount and dismount only where steps and/or handholds are provided
- ▶ Use both hands and face the machine when mounting and dismounting; follow the three point of contact rule (two hands and one foot, two feet and one hand)
- ▶ Never get on or off a moving machine, never jump off the machine
- ▶ Do not climb on or off the machine when carrying tools or supplies
- ▶ Put directional control lever into "neutral" before turning machine on
- ▶ Make sure no one is working on, under or close to the machine before starting



- ▶ Start, turn and brake smoothly
- ▶ Watch out for pedestrians and obstructions, check overhead clearances
- ▶ Do not permit riders on the machine
- ▶ Do not allow anyone to stand or pass under the elevated portion of the machine
- ▶ Observe safe practices and procedures when refueling engine powered machines or when changing or charging batteries on electric machines
- ▶ Never cover, hide or remove any safety label



A few safety tips for replacing conditioner parts

- ▶ Follow your established lock out procedure for the equipment; support equipment and attachments if you have to work under them; do NOT rely on hydraulics
- ▶ Never attempt adjustments when the machine is moving or running unless specific safe work procedures are followed
- ▶ Wear protective glasses when striking a retainer pin; make sure there is no one in the area when you do so as they can fly out with force