

Raised Equipment: What Holds It Up?

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Why this matters

A raised bucket or dump body can fall even with the engine stopped. Before anyone enters beneath or between raised parts, gravity needs its own verified protection.

Objective: Confirm the support and isolation basis before entering a crushing space.

Key hazards or failure points

Falling attachments; hydraulic drift; shifting supports; trapped pressure; movement during support installation or removal.

Practical controls

- Plan the work with equipment fully lowered whenever feasible. If raised access is necessary, use the specified blocking, cribbing or support arrangement.
- Have authorized personnel establish energy isolation and install protection through the actual safe procedure. Nobody enters beneath unsupported equipment to place a prop.
- Keep others clear and control changes to supports, loading and access. Use support equipment within its documented capacity and intended configuration.

Verify It in the Field

From a protected position, match equipment and support identifiers to the governing instructions or approved technical arrangement; appearance alone does not establish suitability.

Have the responsible person confirm support placement, retention, condition and supporting surface against that arrangement before permitting access.

Review the actual energy-verification result and who controls removal of protection. Record limitations, responsible person and release decision; do not test support with someone underneath.

Stop and reassess

Hold access for missing support, settlement, movement, an unknown rating or changed loading. Withdraw safely if conditions deteriorate and obtain a new authorized assessment.

Ask the crew

1. What prevents gravity movement?
2. Which source confirms this support arrangement?
3. Who controls the protection when work ends?

Use this HOP tool — Validate assumptions: Point to the evidence supporting one statement about the raised part, such as the prop being suitable for this configuration. Separate known facts from assumptions. Assign unresolved questions to the required technical role and keep access held until protection is verified.

Sources: OSHA 1926.600, 1910.147; DOE Vol. 2, pp. 22–23. HOP concepts adapted from DOE-HDBK-1028-2009, Vol. 2 (June 2009). No claim to original U.S. Government work; no government endorsement implied.

Free next step: JHA/JSA planning and field-verification worksheet

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/raised-equipment-gravity-support