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# Solution Search

## Alleviate Machine Damage & Lost Production Time from Misuse

### Business Challenge

To keep machines in top working condition, they must be operated according to the recommendations set by the manufacturer. When equipment is continually used outside of these recommendations, it can mean not only repairs, but also having them out of the production line, even potentially voiding the manufacturer's warranty. Operators that are untrained, undertrained or even those with bad habits, can cause machines more unscheduled maintenance to fix or replace brakes, tires, engine problems and more. Costs for these unplanned maintenance repairs can be astronomical. Damage can be caused to tires by overloading hauls, spinning tires or running over rocks. The cost of one truck tire can average \$30,000. Add in the cost of missing production time and one day can mean big dollars in unplanned expenses.

### Solution

Training all new operators, or retraining those with bad habits, can pay off to your organization's bottom line. The foundation of any training plan is to begin training on a heavy equipment simulator. Why let operators handle expensive machines and take the chance of a mishap? Simulator instruction can instill proper-use procedures right from the start. Operators can practice the exercises in a safe environment and progress can be checked through testing. Bad habits can be identified and corrected without any damage to actual machines. Proper use of control functions such as brakes and lifts; turning corners; load hauling and more are addressed on simulators. Even general wear-and-tear of machines can be reduced through proper handling.

### Results

By training operators to properly handle machines, businesses can not only cut down on unplanned maintenance and production loss, but also extend the life of their equipment. A greater return-on-investment will be realized through longer operating hours. Training on a simulator allows new operators the opportunity to perform exercises as often as needed to learn proper techniques. The simulator also allows experienced operators to refine skills. Either way, the actual equipment stays in production during this stage of training and out of the hands of those operators who could cause damage through misuse.

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