



GROUND INJURY PREVENTION

Safe Working Around Equipment and Vehicles

In this issue of Inside Choice Aviation, I want to discuss the responsibility and importance of staying safe while operating or working around ground support equipment and vehicles. We handle a wide range of machinery every day—baggage belts, tugs, loaders, and more. While these tools are essential to our operations, they can also pose serious hazards if not used with care.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), through the Ground Operations Manual (IGOM) and the Airport Handling Manual (AHM), has established important guidelines that help ensure best safe work practices. Compliance with these standards is not only a regulatory requirement, it's a matter of protecting ourselves and our team members from injury.

Key Safety Reminders from IATA (IGOM/AHM)



Loose Clothing & Jewelry

IGOM 3.1.3.1 & AHM 462

"Personnel working with and around vehicles and equipment must protect themselves from loose clothing, long hair, and/or hanging accessories/jewelry from becoming a hazard (e.g., caught or trapped in equipment)."



Quick-Release Accessories

IGOM 3.1.2.5

"Neckties or other loose hanging accessories which may pose risk shall be of the quick release type (clip)."



Conveyor Belt Safety

IGOM 3.1.3.7

"Care shall always be taken when working around a moving belt. Stay vigilant to trap hazards when raising/lowering safety rails. Keep hands/fingers away from the belt's edges. Stop the belt movement before clearing any obstructions."



Best Practices to Prevent Injury

- Avoid wearing **loose clothing**. If unavoidable, ensure it is secured and tucked in.
- **Remove all jewelry** before beginning your shift, especially rings, chains, and bracelets.
- **Tie back long hair** or cover it appropriately to prevent entanglement.
- Maintain **situational awareness**—always be alert to the movements of equipment and coworkers.
- **Use a buddy system** when working near heavy machinery—look out for one another.

By following these simple yet critical precautions, we reduce our risk of injury and ensure a safer, more productive workplace. **Safety doesn't just happen—it's a habit we commit to every day.**

Stay safe. Stay alert.
Watch out for one another.

Vehicle & GSE Caution

Can you find all 12 words in the Vehicle & GSE Caution Word Search?

- human factors
- caution
- teamwork
- injury
- obstruction
- hazard
- conveyor
- vigilant
- safety rails
- jewelry
- long hair
- loose clothing

