



CONTROLLED DEMOLITION

COMPACT MACHINES ASSIST WITH SENSITIVE WORK

Fifteen years ago, Brandon Ring was an avid motocross racer who built dirt bike tracks on the side. But with a body that was beat up from years of racing in a physically demanding sport where impact-related injuries are common, he turned his sidelight into a full-time job, using a farm tractor and an old Cat® D3 Dozer.

“I was a little too busted up and I couldn’t test my own tracks anymore and then it kind of evolved into, ‘You have a bulldozer, can you fix my driveway?’” Ring recalls. “So I started the company making \$700 bucks with one tractor on the weekend.”

That led to other work, and soon Ring was making a name for himself and developing a customer base in the Atlanta area. Ring formed RTF Services in 2015.

In addition to site development, the Newnan, Georgia-based firm specializes in sensitive demolition work throughout the greater Atlanta area, the southeastern U.S., and beyond. With 30 percent annual growth, RTF’s services are in demand. The company does demolition

work for local, state and federal agencies, as well as residential sitework. A good share of its work comes from homebuilders and architectural firms.

A demolition job RTF performed this fall in an exclusive residential neighborhood of Midtown Atlanta demonstrates its ability to work in tight areas without damaging existing vegetation and neighboring structures. Utilizing a Cat 315 Hydraulic Excavator, RTF crews demolished the back end of a house, as well as a swimming pool.

Due to the narrow, sloped driveway, the job required a substantial amount of planning as there was no truck access to the site. All demolished materials were transported down the driveway, which was covered with protective pads, and loaded into haul trucks waiting in the street.

“When offloading our Cat machines, we can’t damage the road or the curb,” Ring says. “The driveway has

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travertine inlays all up in the front and brick every so often, and the bricks are 120 years old and native to Atlanta.”

Next Gen 308 CR Mini Excavator does the work

To assist with the cleanup and subsequent excavation for a new foundation, a Cat Next Gen 308 CR Mini Excavator worked in combination with a 299D Compact Track Loader. The 308 processed the waste material and loaded it into a dump hopper, which was transported out to the street by the 299D and loaded into the haul trucks.

“This yard has a lot of big trees, and the owners are worried about us impacting the root systems,” Ring said. “Because we can do the work with smaller machines, there’s less impact and our jobs look cleaner. The 308 has been a lot of help with the rubber trackpads because it exerts much lower ground pressure.”

The 308 Mini Hex was used to demolish several decorative walls. Compared to a similar-sized machine from another brand, as well as the previous version of the Cat 308, Ring says the new 308 is considerably stronger.

“It has much better tractive effort,” he says. “The tracks pull where the other tractors kind of get on the side of the hill and they run out of power, especially if you need to multifunction and use your bucket or swing to the side and still be moving.

“Caterpillar has made some great improvements with this

new version, and a couple of my guys love the stick steer,” he continues. “You can grade with the blade kind of like a dozer. You can use the single stick instead of having to hold the blade with one hand, use both your feet and have to concentrate in five different areas. You’re focused on one stick and one blade control and that simplifies things for the operator.”

The Cat 299D is a workhouse machine for RTF. With its vertical lift design, the compact track loader delivers extended reach and lift height for quick and easy truck loading.

“We work in such confined areas a lot of times that we end up using dump hoppers to move demolition debris off-site because they’re not truck accessible or if they are, we can’t damage the roads or the driveways we’re working on. Some of the smaller track machines don’t have the lift capacity to load and carry what we need to pick up.”

Cab comfort

The quality and comfort of a Cat machine makes for a happy operator, Ring says.

“If I can keep nice new equipment and we can keep everything clean and orderly, then a guy will want to spend 10 hours in it every day,” he says. “If he sits in something that’s hot and loud and is breaking down all the time, then it’s harder to keep guys who want to be in that machine. So having Cat machines with the creature comforts—they have the best A/C and they’re not loud—that stuff matters to the operators who are sitting in them 10 to 12 hours a day.”

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– BRANDON RING
OWNER



Ring particularly likes the pressurized cabs, which keep dust and other particulate matter out.

“As we often work in demolition settings that involve sheet rock dust, insulation and dirt and grime, with these new pressurized cabs, you step out of the tractor just like you stepped in it,” he says. “And that makes a huge difference when you’re not covered in grease and dirt when you get home, and your wife is mad because you need to have a second washing machine to wash your dirty clothes.”

RTF uses Cat attachments on its compact machines to handle a variety of tasks.

“I like the brooms, they make our jobs a lot easier,” Ring says. “We work a lot in the right of ways, so the brooms are very handy for cleanup at the end of the day.”

When it comes to machine acquisition, Ring prefers the ease of working with his Cat dealer rep to finance purchases through Cat Financial.

“Cat Financial has great programs with some of the best interest rates in the industry,” he says.

When RTF has a demolition job in a distant location, Ring knows he can count on the Cat dealer network to deliver rental equipment that he needs at the jobsite.

“If we need three or four 308s and a couple skid steers, then we’re going to rent those instead of hauling them 2,000 or more miles each direction,” Ring says.

If he does encounter an issue with one of his Cat machines, he can count on Yancey to send someone to fix it, or provide a replacement machine within 24 hours.

“A lot of other equipment dealers start off with telling you what their service fee is,” Ring says. “When I call Yancey they show up on short notice, and then once the dust settles, we figure out everything. They’ve always been extremely fair.

“Not all Cat dealers are as big as Yancey, but that’s one area where my Cat dealer shines because they have large equipment and parts inventories to keep us in service every day.” **OTJ**



RTF SERVICES

Location:

Newnan, Ga.

Cat® equipment:

(NEED LIST OF YOUR CAT MACHINES)

