

safety matters

Construction

Toolbox Talks for

From your safety partners at Cool Insuring Agency, Inc.

Skid-steer Loader Safety

If you operate or work near skid-steer loaders, take these steps to protect yourself.

Follow safe operating procedures:

- Read and understand all safety and operating procedures outlined in the operator's manual, workshop manual, and safety decals.
- Operate the loader only when properly positioned in the operator's compartment—never from the outside.
- Stay seated when operating the loader controls.
- Operate with the seat belt snugly fastened and the restraint bar properly positioned, if one is provided.
- Keep hands, arms, legs, and head inside the operator's compartment while operating the loader.
- Load, unload, and turn on level ground when possible.
- Travel and turn with the bucket in the lowest position possible. Carry the load low.
- Operate on stable surfaces only. Avoid slippery surfaces.
- Do not travel across slopes. Travel straight up or down, with the heavy end of the machine pointed uphill.
- Keep bystanders away from the work area.
- **NEVER** modify or bypass safety devices.
- **NEVER** carry riders.
- Be aware that each machine may operate differently.

Enter and exit from the loader safely:

- Enter and exit a loader when the bucket is flat on the ground or when the lift-arm support device is in place.

- When entering a loader, face the seat and keep a three-point contact with handholds and steps.
- **NEVER** use foot or hand controls as steps or handholds.
- Keep all walking and working surfaces clean and clear of debris.
- Before leaving the operator's seat, remember to do the following:
 - Lower the bucket flat on the ground.
 - Set the parking brake.
 - Turn off the engine.

Maintain the machine in safe operating condition:

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep the foot controls free of mud, ice, snow and debris.
- Regularly inspect and maintain the following safety devices:
 - Control interlocks
 - Seat belts
 - Restraint bars
 - Side screens
 - Rollover protective structures (ROPS)
 - Falling object protective structures (FOPS)
- **NEVER** modify or bypass safety devices.
- **NEVER** exceed the manufacturer's recommended load capacity.
- If you must perform service under a raised bucket, make sure the lift-arm support device is in place.

Source: NIOSH

Improper operation of skid-steer loaders can put workers at risk of rollover and run-over incidents.

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