

TOOLBOX TALKS

Agriculture Industry: Skid Steer Safety

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TOPIC: Safely Operating a Skid Steer Loader

If you are an employer, make sure that your workers understand all manufacturers' warnings and instructions before they operate skid steer loaders. Train workers to use the following safe operating procedures:

Operating Safely

- Operate the loader from the operator's compartment—never from the outside
- Stay seated when operating the loader controls
- Work with the seat belt fastened and the restraint bar in place
- Keep your arms, legs, and head inside the cab while operating the loader
- When possible, plan to load, unload, and turn on level ground
- For maximum stability, travel and turn with the bucket in the lowest position possible
- Never exceed the manufacturer's recommended load capacity for the machine
- Operate on stable surfaces only
- Avoid traveling across slopes; travel straight up or down with the heavy end of the machine pointed uphill
- Always face the direction of travel
- Keep bystanders away from the work area
- **NEVER** modify or bypass safety devices

Entering and Exiting from the Loader Safely

- Enter only when the bucket or other attachment is flat on the ground—or when the lift-arm supports are in place
- Use supports supplied or recommended by the manufacturer
- Never use foot or hand controls for steps or handholds
- Keep all walking and working surfaces clean and clear of debris
- Before leaving the operator's seat:
 - lower the bucket or other attachment flat to the ground
 - set the parking brake
 - turn off the engine
- If you are unable to exit through the front of the machine, use the emergency exit through the roof or across the back

Maintaining the Loader in Safe Operating Condition

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintaining the loader
- Keep the foot controls and the operator's compartment free of mud, ice, snow, and debris
- If the machine cannot be serviced with the bucket on the ground, use the lift arm supports recommended or provided by the manufacturer. If the machine is not equipped with lift arm supports, contact the equipment dealer or manufacturer's representative for help in selecting proper supports
- Never work on the machine with the engine running unless directed to do so by the operator's manual. Follow the manufacturer's safety recommendations to complete the task. If the adjustments require that the engine be in operation, use two persons to perform the task.
- Before servicing; set the parking brake, lower all attachments and buckets to the ground, turn off engine, and remove the key

Discussion Date: _____

Employee Participants:

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