

Toolbox Talks

Safely Operating a Skid Steer Loader

If you are an employer, make sure that your workers understand all manufacturer's 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 compartment-never from the outside
- Stay seated when operating the loader controls
- Work with the seat belt fastened and the restrain 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 travelling across slopes; travel straight up or down with the heavy end of the machine pointed uphill
- Face the direction of travel as much as possible, within reason
- 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 operators 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 rep for help in selecting proper supports
- Never work on the machine with the engine running unless directed to do so by the

