

Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Skid-Steer Loaders

WARNING!

Workers who operate or work near skid-steer loaders may be crushed or caught by the machine or its parts.

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

1. Follow safe operating procedures:

- 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.
- Load, unload, and turn on level ground when possible.
- Travel and turn with the bucket in the lowest position possible.
- Operate on stable surfaces only.
- 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 disable safety devices.

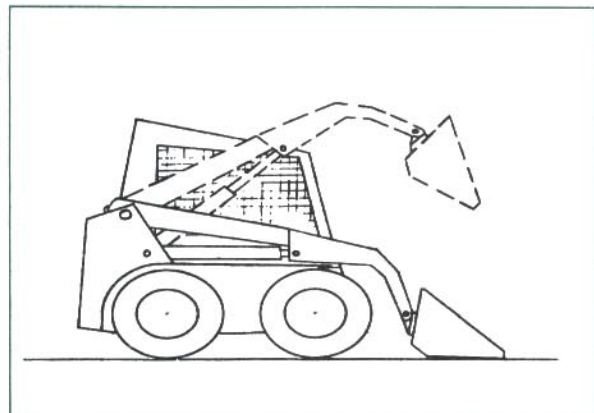
2. Enter and exit from the loader safely:

- Enter the loader only when the bucket is flat on the ground—or when the lift-arm supports are in place.
- When entering the loader, face the seat and keep a three-point contact with handholds and steps.
- Never use foot or hand controls for steps or handholds.
- Keep all walking and working surfaces clean and clear.

- Before leaving the operator's seat,
 - lower the bucket flat to the ground,
 - set the parking brake, and
 - turn off the engine.

3. 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
 - Interlocked controls
 - Safety belts
 - Restraint bars
 - Side screens
 - Rollover protective structures (ROPS)
- **NEVER** modify or bypass safety devices.
- If you must perform service under a raised bucket, use the lift-arm supports.



For additional information, see ***NIOSH Alert: Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Skid-Steer Loaders*** [DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 98-117]. Single copies of the Alert are available free from the following:

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