

Tailgate Training Sheet

Skid Steer – Safe Operating Procedures



Trainer's Note: This tailgate training session is designed to assist you in informing your employees of the Safe Operating Procedures for Skid Steer Loaders. Be sure to discuss specific operating hazards for the areas where your employees are using skid steer loaders. Some examples are pedestrians, uneven terrain, overhead power lines, slopes and ditches. Perform this training while your employees are gathered around a skid steer loader. Use the loader as part of the demonstration to show your employees the hazard areas of a skid steer loader. This training session should be performed for both skid steer loader operator and those who are required to work around skid steer loaders.

Time: 5-10 minutes

Training Objective:

- Know the safe operating procedures for skid steer loaders.
- Be able to identify operating hazards.
- Know how to properly enter and exit a skid steer loader.



Safe Operating Procedures

- OSHA requires employees to READ AND UNDERSTAND THE OWNER'S MANUAL before using this machinery.
- Familiarize yourself with warning devices, gauges and controls. Review the specific controls on your skid steer loaders. If you have loaders with different set-ups, make sure that you review each type of loader separately.
- Always operate the skid steer from inside the operator's compartment. **DO NOT** operate from the outside.
- Stay seated while using the skid steer loader controls.
- Only operate with the seat belt fastened and safety bar in place.
- Keep arms, legs and head inside while operating.
- Try to plan to load, unload and turn only on level ground.
- Check for obstacles such as drop-offs or soft soil spots.
- Check for overhead hazards such as power lines. It is illegal to operate a skid steer loader with power lines closer than 10 feet.



- Riders should NEVER be permitted.
- Adjust speed to suit working conditions and terrain.
- Never use the loader as a work platform.
- Travel and turn with the bucket low to the ground.
- Never exceed the load capacity.
- Face in the direction of travel.
- **DO NOT** modify or bypass safety devices.

Operating Hazards

- Pedestrians and workers who are too close to the skid steer. Always keep bystanders away from the skid steer while it is in use.
- Never use the loader as a work platform.
- Never allow workers to stand on attachments while trying to stabilize the load. If it is necessary to stabilize a load, use straps to secure the load instead of workers.



- Always enter and exit the skid steer loader with the attachment on the ground or the lift-arm supports in place. Workers who are pinned between the machine and the arms or attachments is the most common cause of accidental deaths relating

to skid steer operation, according to The National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH).

- Use extreme care while backing up. Remember that there is a large blind spot behind the machine. Make sure that you know what is behind you and are aware of any ledges that you may be operating around.
- Travel straight up or down with the heavy end pointed uphill. Do not travel sideways on slopes.
- Be aware of all overhead obstacles, including power lines.

Entering and Exiting a Skid Steer Loader

- Enter the loader when the bucket or attachment is on the ground, or when lift-arm supports are in place.
- Face the seat when entering and maintain three points of contact.
- Do not use foot or hand controls to step or hold while entering or exiting.
- Before exiting, lower the bucket or attachment to the ground, set the parking brake and shut off the engine.
- If you cannot exit through the front, use the emergency exit through the top of the loader or across the back.

**Remember - it is you, the operator,
who is responsible for the safe
operation of your
Skid Steer Loader
AT ALL TIMES!!!!!!**

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