



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY
EXPERIMENT STATION

MAFES DAWG TRACKS

A common piece of rolling stock used in agriculture is a skid steer loader. While they are compact enough to get in tight spaces and stout enough to handle different material and attachments, sometimes workers do not fully appreciate their potential hazards.

Based on several different agencies' reports, when a skid steer is involved in a workplace fatality, being pinned between the bucket and frame or between the lift arm and frame is overwhelmingly the most common incident. These skid steer accidents result in a tragedy because of activities such as ...

- Working or standing under a raised lift arm or attachment without proper support device.
- Leaning out of the operator's compartment into the path of the moving lift arm.
- Bypassing or removing safety interlocks and equipment installed by the manufacturer.

The following safe practices will minimize hazardous situations with a skid steer loader:

- ✓ Always read and understand the operator's manual & follow the manufacturer's recommendations.
- ✓ Inspect the skid-steer loader to ensure that all safety systems are functioning properly prior to operating the equipment.
- ✓ Never permit riders on the skid-steer loader, in the bucket or attachment.
- ✓ Always keep bystanders a safe distance away from the work area.

- ✓ Always lower the bucket or attachment so that it is flat on the ground and set the parking brake before exiting.
- ✓ Do not leave the operator's seat while the engine is on. Never attempt to activate the controls unless properly seated with the seatbelt fastened and the seat bar (if equipped) lowered.
- ✓ Keep all body parts inside the cab while operating a skid-steer loader.
- ✓ Never modify, bypass, disable, or override safety systems.
- ✓ Travel and turn with the bucket in the lowest position possible. Carry the load low.
- ✓ Plan to load, unload, and turn on level ground, when possible.
- ✓ Never attempt maintenance or other work while lift arms or attachments are raised without using an approved lift arm support device. Replace protective guards and shields after repairs or service.

Supervisors must train workers on the above safe practices before they operate a skid steer.

Workers must inspect the equipment before operating it. Pay special attention to the following safety devices: control interlocks, seat belts, restraint bars, side screens, rollover protective structures (ROPS), & falling object protective structure (FOPS). Report any problems to the supervisor immediately.

Equipment with modified or malfunctioning safety systems should be taken out of service until repaired or replaced.

For more info contact:
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Sources:

- <https://www.osha.gov/dts/shib/shib011209.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-128/pdfs/2011-128.pdf>