

Training Module: Skid-Steer Loaders

Objective: To understand and know how to prevent the dangers associated with the skid-steer loader.

Trainer's Note: Inappropriate use of the skid-steer loaders causes accidents. Demonstrate the do's and don'ts of skid steer safety in the barn or out in the field. Discuss potential and past skid-steer loader accidents.

Background

Circle the machine checking for bystanders and to ensure that the lift arms are lowered or restrained by a lift arm restraint device. When getting on or off the loader, face the machine and use the grab handles as contact points. Do not use a steering or control levers as a hand hold. Never jump on or off the machine. Never attempt to mount or dismount a moving machine. Know the exact starting procedure for your machine (consult manufacture's manual). Start the engine from the operator's seat only. Do not start the engine by shorting across starter terminals.

Different attachments can change the weight distribution.



Safe Operation

Different attachments can change the weight distribution of the loader and effect its stability and handling response. Be sure to keep the loader under control.

- Never use the bucket for a work platform or personnel carrier.
- Check for bystanders before backing up, or swinging an attachment. Never lift, swing, or move a load over anyone.
- Knowing the location of pinch points and rotating parts prevents accidents.
- Never overload the bucket.
- Keep the body inside the operator's cab while operating the skid-steer loader.
- Travel or turn with lift arms down. Load, unload and turn on flat level ground.
- Never ram the bucket into a material pile. Most loaders have more force at slow speeds.
- Decrease speed on rough terrain to increase operator control.
- Raise loads slowly and evenly, and be ready to lower load quickly to correct for instability.
- Never allow riders.
- Keep view free from obstruction and carry loads low.
- Have a fire extinguisher (minimum size of 5 lb) in quick release mount on the machine.
- Travel up and down slopes with the heavy end of the loader pointed uphill.

Review The Following Points

- Start the engine from the operator's seat.
- Keep the body inside the operator's cab while operating the skid-steer loader.
- Never ram the bucket of the skid-steer in the material pile being moved.
- Raise loads slowly at an even rate and be ready to lower loads quickly.
- Never carry riders.

True or False Answer Key

1. T, 2. T, 3. T, 4. T, 5. T

Skid-Steer Loaders Quiz

True or False

Name _____

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Never use the bucket for a work platform. | T | F |
| 2. Keep the body inside the operator's cab while operating the skid-steer loader. | T | F |
| 3. Start the engine only from the operator's seat. | T | F |
| 4. Always look around before backing up, or swinging an attachment. | T | F |
| 5. Never travel with a load obstructing your vision. | T | F |