

Wheel Loader Operation

Setting up for operations on a base crew requires coordination and communication.

These operations involve many people and heavy equipment operation.

The potential for injuries are high and therefore care needs to be taken to ensure the safe operation on a base crew.

Pause for Safety

- Hazards**
- Slip, trip, or falls
 - Pinch points
 - Overloading
 - Crushing Injuries
 - Overhead or underground hazards
 - Steep inclines / declines
 - Backing

PPE



Additional PPE



Controls

- You will encounter**
- Gravel trucks & trailers (various configurations)
 - Wheel loader
 - Aggregate materials



Strategies and Procedures

Your Supervisors are responsible to verify that you are capable and qualified before being allowed to operate the equipment unsupervised.

Before mounting equipment,

- Be familiar with the operator's manual.
- Perform a walk-around inspection
- Check all fluid levels
- Check tires for wear and proper pressure
- Do not use any equipment that is unsafe.
- Report all faults to your supervisor and have the necessary repairs performed
- Make visual inspection of the work area before starting operations.

Mounting and dismounting

- Always face equipment
- Make sure that both hands are free for mounting or dismounting
 - Do not carry items while entering or exiting the cab.
- Take extra care to ensure that footwear is free from grease, mud, or snow before climbing on or off a machine.
- Maintain three point contact with steps and handholds provided
- Do not jump.
- Never mount or dismount a moving machine.

Operating

- If equipment is fitted with seat belts, mandatory use of the seat belt at all times is required.
 - This will keep you in the seat and also reduce the stresses on your back throughout the day as you will remain in the proper seating position.
- Start engine only from the operator's seat with the transmission selector in neutral and park brake engaged.
- Operate equipment with lights on at all times.
- Only you are permitted on the machine. Keep riders off.
- Keep windshield, windshield wipers, side windows and mirrors clean.
- Keep aware of co-workers and others on foot in work zones.
- Do not operate the loader or controls from any position other than the operator's seat.

Travelling

- Obey project site speed limits and posted signs.
- Carry bucket low to the ground (loaded or unloaded).
- Do not stop, start or turn quickly when carrying a load.
- Stop loader with brakes, not transmission.
- Use extreme care when moving down a slope.
 - Select low gear speed so engine does not over speed.
 - Never allow machine to coast downhill with transmission in neutral.
- Avoid side slope travel wherever possible.

- When deadheading, use low volume roadways if available. Pull over if necessary to allow vehicles to pass.

Mining or excavating material

- Do not lower the loader bucket with the control lever in the float position.
- Use caution when undercutting the bank.
 - Work to the side where possible.
 - If the aggregate falls loose from the bank, it will injure you and damage the loader.
 - If you must undercut more than half a meter (2 feet), move to a different area or consult your supervisor for advice on how to proceed
- Do not swing bucket over truck cab or ground crew.
- Avoid overhead power lines and other obstructions.
- Build a berm prior to dumping over banks.



Hoisting

When using a loader for hoisting or moving non-aggregate materials, only use appropriate and certified lifting devices.

Backing up

- Backing up without a clear view or signal person is prohibited.
- Always check visually to the rear before backing.
- Back up only when you are sure it is safe to do so.
- Make sure back-up alarms are working properly.
- Slowly back up with extreme caution.

Parking

- Choose safest location possible to park equipment.
 - Avoid parking in other people's blind spot.
- Leave 3 to 5 meters (10 to 16 feet) distance between machines
- Do not park unnecessarily behind any other equipment or vehicles.
- Before leaving the operator's seat, ensure:
 - The bucket is down
 - Transmission selector is locked in neutral
 - All safety brakes are engaged, and
 - The engine is stopped.
- Always lock equipment properly when parking overnight or for an extended period.

Do not ride on machines not equipped to carry passengers.

