

## Skid steer Loader Operation

A Skid Steer loader is a very quick, nimble piece of machinery.

As with any mobile equipment, coordination and communication are essential to safe operation.

### Pause for Safety

- Hazards**
- Slips, trips, or falls
  - Crushing/Pinching Injuries
  - Workers on foot/Bystanders
  - Overhead or underground hazards
  - Steep inclines
  - Rollovers
  - Overloading
  - Collisions
  - Backing

**PPE**



**Additional PPE**



**Controls**

- You will encounter**
- Gravel trucks & trailers (various configurations)
  - Wheel loader
  - Aggregate materials/ Asphalt/ other materials to be moved



## 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
- Check hydraulics, hoses and all safety devices.
- Do not use any equipment that is unsafe.
- Report all faults to your supervisor and have the necessary repairs performed
  - Ensure that the machine cannot be started accidentally or by any other employee during servicing.
- Complete a hazard assessment of the work area, including other working equipment, obstacles, workers, terrain and weather conditions.
  - Wear appropriate personal protective equipment consistent with the hazards.

Mounting and dismounting

- Always face equipment
- Use 3-Point Contact when entering or exiting the cab.
- 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.
- Do not jump.

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.
  - Never bypass any safety devices including the restraint bar.
  - Keep all body parts within the cab at all times.
- NEVER modify or bypass safety devices.
- Start using cold start procedure, allowing the machine to warm up.
- Stay seated when operating the machine.
  - Only you are permitted on the machine. Keep riders off.
- Operate equipment with lights on at all times.
- Keep mirrors and windows clear for visibility.
  - Keep cab clean of garbage and debris.
- When possible, plan to load, unload, and turn on level ground.
  - For maximum stability, travel, turn and park with the hydraulics lowered and bucket close to the ground.
  - Do not stop, start or turn quickly when carrying a load.
  - Avoiding swinging a load while adjusting speed to accommodate working conditions.
  - Operate on stable surfaces only.

- Avoid traveling across slopes; travel straight up or down with the heavy end of the machine pointed uphill.
- Always face the direction of travel.
- Never exceed the manufacturer's recommended load capacity for the machine.
- Backing up without a clear view or signal person is prohibited.
  - Whenever possible travel in the forward direction.
  - Use radio for communication whenever practical.
- Workers on foot should never be allowed within the skid steer work zone.
  - Never assume a bystander, or other equipment operator knows where you are going.
- Obey all posted signs, being aware of underground hazards.
- Choose safest location possible to park equipment.
  - Avoid parking in other people's blind spot.
  - Always lock equipment properly when parking overnight or for an extended period.

- Follow lock-out procedures prior to all servicing and repairs.
  - Engage safety steering lock and turn off the engine while working on loader.
- Never work on the machine without lowering the bucket, or using lift arm supports.

Follow manufacturer's instructions for maintaining the loader.



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Maintenance

