Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Skid-Steer Loaders

**WARNING!**
Workers who operate or work near skid-steer loaders may be crushed or caught by the machine or its parts.

If you operate or work near skid-steer loaders, take these steps to protect yourself.

1. Follow safe operating procedures:
   - Operate the loader from the operator’s compartment—never from the outside.
   - Stay seated when operating the loader controls.
   - Work with the seat belt fastened and the restraint bar in place.
   - Keep your arms, legs, and head inside the cab while operating the loader.
   - Load, unload, and turn on level ground when possible.
   - Travel and turn with the bucket in the lowest position possible.
   - Operate on stable surfaces only.
   - Do not travel across slopes. Travel straight up or down, with the heavy end of the machine pointed uphill.
   - Keep bystanders away from the work area.
   - Never disable safety devices.

2. Enter and exit from the loader safely:
   - Enter the loader only when the bucket is flat on the ground—or when the lift-arm supports are in place.
   - When entering the loader, face the seat and keep a three-point contact with handholds and steps.
   - Never use foot or hand controls for steps or handholds.
   - Keep all walking and working surfaces clean and clear.

3. Maintain the machine in safe operating condition:
   - Follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
   - Keep the foot controls free of mud, ice, snow, and debris.
   - Regularly inspect and maintain
     - Interlocked controls
     - Safety belts
     - Restraint bars
     - Side screens
     - Rollover protective structures (ROPS)
   - **NEVER** modify or bypass safety devices.
   - If you must perform service under a raised bucket, use the lift-arm supports.

Please tear out and post. Distribute copies to workers. See back of sheet to order complete Alert.
For additional information, see *NIOSH Alert: Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Skid-Steer Loaders* [DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 98-117]. Single copies of the Alert are available free from the following:

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