

1. Purpose

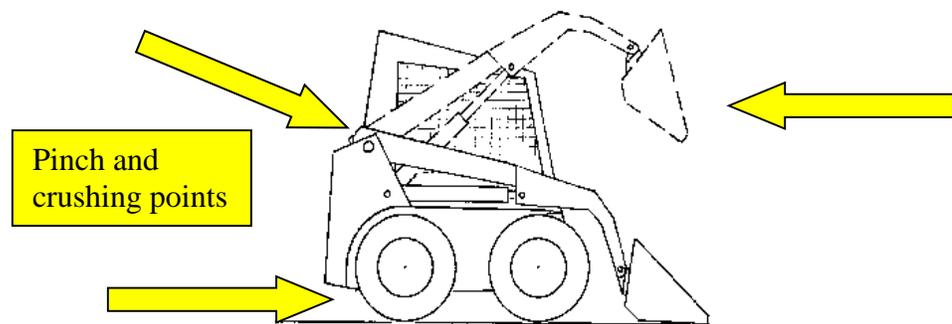
To help prevent serious workplace injuries or fatalities by informing employees of safe operating techniques and the hazards associated with skid steers

2. Definitions

None

3. Hazards

- Pedestrians and ground men work in congested construction zones and therefore work within close proximity to one another.
- Pinch points causing workers to be pinned between the bucket and frame or between the lift arms and frame.
- Pinning of personnel between skid steer and another object.
- Rollovers.
- Crushing or being run over with skid steer.



4. Prerequisites

- Equipment orientation. Identification of pinch points, and common operating hazards.
- Read and understand the operator's manual.
- PPE (Hi-visibility apparel, hard hat, steel toe boots, safety glasses, and gloves).
- Pre-shift Huddle.
- Field Level Risk Assessment.

5. Precautions

- All employees must be aware of operating and site specific hazards prior to commencing work.
- Operators are responsible for the safe operation of the skid steer at all times.
- Use extreme caution while backing up. There are large blind spots behind the skid steer and on both sides where the arm lifts pivot up and down.
- Ground workers must be attentive to their surroundings, never have their back to moving, and remain out of the line of fire.

6. Procedure

Safe Operating Procedures:

1. Check all equipment fluids (oil, hydraulic fluid, anti-freeze, washer fluid etc) and grease if needed.
2. Conduct a pre-trip to ensure equipment is free of malfunctioning components (back-up alarms, gauges, controls, hydraulics, etc) or absent of physical body damage.
3. Inspect attachments and ensure that they are being used according to manufacturer's specifications.
4. Check for obstacles and/or hazards (drop-offs, soft soil spots, overhead wires etc) when conducting Field Level Risk Assessment, plan safe loading and unloading routes.
5. If a ground spotter is available, ensure that hand signals are understood and communicated before commencing work.
6. Familiarize self with controls, gauges and warning devices specific to your skid steer prior to operation.
7. Adjust seat and mirrors in bobcat to minimize blind spots.
8. Work with the seat belt fastened and the restraint bar in place.
9. Keep your arms, legs, and head inside the cab while operating the loader.
10. Travel and turn with bucket in the lowest position possible.
11. When possible face the direction of travel.
12. Adjust speed to suit working conditions and terrain.
13. Travel straight up or down with heavy end pointed uphill. Do not travel sideways on slopes.
14. Maintain consistent eye contact and practice regular hand signals with spotter or ground men. Never assume they know where you are going.

Safe Operating Procedures (Continued):

15. Buckets and attachments must be fully lowered to the ground when not in operation.
16. When parking, place gear in neutral, apply parking brake, and remove keys from ignition.
17. When practicable park skid steer side by side other equipment for safe start-up when beginning operations at later time.

Note* Operators are responsible at all times for the safe operation of their equipment. Operators must maintain a minimum distance of (2 feet) from ground personnel at all times.

Reversing Techniques:

Note** There are large blind spots at the rear and sides of the skid steer.

- Prior to backing up, sound horn 2 times.
- Check mirrors every 3-5 seconds.
- Check blind spots by moving entire head, not just eyes (this increases overall peripheral vision).
- When possible, always back the bobcat to view side, never blind side.
- Ensure that you maintain eye contact with ground spotter at all times if available.
- If you lose sight of the ground spotter or other ground workers that were once in your work space, STOP immediately.
- If you have not re-gained the vision of the spotter or other missing workers, get out and confirm their location before you proceed to reverse.

Entering and Exiting the Skid Steer:

1. Enter when the bucket or attachment is on the ground.
2. Face the seat when entering and maintain 3-point contact.
3. Do not use the foot or hand controls to step or hold while entering or exiting.
4. Before exiting, lower bucket or attachment to the ground, set the parking brake, and shut off engine every time.

5. NEVER Conduct the following when operating Skid steers:

- Allow riders anywhere on the equipment.
- Use the bucket or other attachments as a platform.
- Exceed the load capacity.
- Modify or bypass safety devices.
- Proceed in reverse without clarification area is free of pedestrians, ground men, or equipment etc.
- Use hand held devices, or cell phones while operating equipment.

References

OHSR : Part 16- Operating Equipment

16.39 Swinging equipment

If a hazard is created by the swinging movement of the load, cab, counterweight or any other part of the mobile equipment a worker must not be within range of the swinging load or equipment, and the operator must not move the equipment when any worker is so exposed.

16.40 Clearance

Equipment must be positioned so that no swinging portion of the equipment can come within 60 cm (2 ft) of any obstruction in any area accessible to workers, or entry to such areas must be prevented by barriers or other effective means.

7. Exceptions

None

8. Implementation

Immediately

Site supervisor are to maintain a watchful eye that all employees are working in a responsible manner and are utilizing all work safe knowledge and practices.

**9. Interpretation &
Updating**

With every change of job site a safety meeting will be held and all possible health and safety hazards will be identified.