

If you operate or work near skid-steer loaders, always follow safe operating and job site procedures. **Never modify, disable, override, or bypass the safety devices on any skid-steer loader.**

While operating a skid-steer loader, a worker leaned out of the operator compartment after lifting the seat bar and was crushed between the frame of the skid steer loader and the scraper attachment.

When the victim raised the seat bar and leaned out of the operator compartment the loader lift arms dropped rapidly pinning his head which resulted in a fatal injury. It was later determined that the seat bar was not adjusted properly.

NIOSH In-house FACE Report 2004-01



- Inspect the skid-steer loader to ensure all safety systems are functioning properly prior to operating the equipment.
- Always stay seated when operating the loader controls. Do not leave the operator's seat while the engine is on. Keep all body parts inside the operator's compartment during operation.
- Equipment with malfunctioning safety devices must be taken out of service until they are repaired or replaced.

A worker was struck by a skid-steer loader while exiting from a tarp-enclosed area at the work site. At the time of the incident, the worker was in a crouched position moving backwards while pulling a wheelbarrow. The tarp-enclosed area had been set up to protect employees from the weather but there was no designated entrance or exit location. The victim was not visible to the skid-steer loader operator, and he was killed when he was struck and run over. NIOSH MA Case Report 07-MA-019

- Tarp-enclosed areas should have designated entrance/exit openings for workers.
- Warning devices, like signs or cones, should be placed at locations where workers on foot are entering work areas occupied by heavy equipment, like loaders.
- Workers on foot at the job site should always stay a safe distance from heavy equipment, only use the designated walkways, and wear high-visibility safety vests or clothing.

A worker was killed while repairing a skid-steer loader when the lift arm and bucket came down suddenly crushing him against the frame.

The victim was standing in front of the skid-steer under the raised lift arm and bucket while performing the repair that involved removing one of the loader's high pressure hydraulic lines. Once the hydraulic line was removed, the victim was crushed against the loader's frame when the lift arm and bucket came down.

MA FACE Fatality Report 15-MA-004-01



- Maintenance work should only be performed when the engine is turned off, the key removed, the parking brake set, the wheels blocked, and attachments lowered or supported by an approved lift arm support device.
- Employers should develop, implement, and enforce lockout/tagout procedures for skid-steer loaders that include the use of lift arm support devices during maintenance tasks.
- Only trained employees should be performing the maintenance tasks.

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