

SKID STEER SAFETY



Skid Steer Safety

Skid steers are a common piece of equipment on SCS jobsites. While they are small, the danger these machines pose can be large.

Hazards Associated with Operation

There is a magnitude of possible hazards for skid steer operators, including those who work around these machines. Some of the major and more common hazards to consider:

- Struck-by hazards. Operating in high traffic areas (vehicle &/or pedestrian), reversing and blind spots increase this hazard.
- Crushed-by hazards. Workers who are on the ground around this equipment can be pinned, ran over, and crushed between skid steer and another object.
- Tip-overs or rollovers
- Pinch points

Best Practices for Safely Operating Skid Steer Loaders

- Always adhere to the manufacture's guidelines for operation.
 - Become familiar with that specific machine's controls. Review the manual, understand its capabilities and its limits.
- Inspect the equipment prior to operating it each day!
 - Take out of service immediately if it doesn't pass inspection & **report it**.
- Do not work under the raised arms or bucket of a skid steer. Always lower the bucket all the way down before exiting the machine.
- Set up work areas in such a way that ground personnel activity is not going to overlap.
 - Stop working anytime sight is lost of anyone working nearby.
- Never, overload the skid steer. Travel with bucket or load low to the ground.
- Always wear seat belt or engage the restraint bar.
- Never carry riders or lift anyone with the attachment.

Summary

While skid steers are not as imposing as some other equipment out there. They can be equally as dangerous, take time to evaluate the hazards associated with their operation.

Note: A study performed by NIOSH looked at 37 fatalities involving skid steers. They found that 78% of those resulted from "pinning between the bucket and frame or lift arm and frame". Not specified if these victims were operators, mechanics or other trades.
Stay out of the line of fire.

Please share in the comments section any other hazards or Precautions we can take to prevent injuries involving skid steers.