

**Hazards** associated with skid-steer machines include runovers and entrapments. Runovers happen to operators who fall out of the machine while operating it; workers on the ground that are assisting the skid-steer operator; riders in buckets; and bystanders. Riders in buckets and bystanders are often young children.

Entrapment hazards often occur to operators who try to maneuver controls and levers from outside the skid-steer's protective frame, or from miscommunications between operators and helpers. Many hands, arms, feet and legs are mangled and amputated from crushing injuries that occur when the lift arms or bucket moves unexpectedly. Deaths due to crushing injuries have also occurred.

Other hazards include hydraulic system failure; lack of visibility immediately around the machine; slips and falls from improper mounting and dismounting; and being crushed by falling objects.

By following the Top 10 Suggestions for Skid-Steers in this brochure an overwhelming majority of skid-steer related injury and fatality incidents can be avoided.



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## PENN STATE AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

# Top 10 Suggestions For Skid-Steer Safety

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1

Pay attention to the basics:

- Keep protective structures in place.
- Wear seat belt or use restraint bar.
- Use 3-pt. method for mounting & dismounting.
- Never exceed the skid-steer's operating capacity.
- Lower bucket to park safely.

2

Regularly check:

- Controls and levers for safe operation.
- Safety start devices.
- Bucket and attachment locking/hooking points.

3

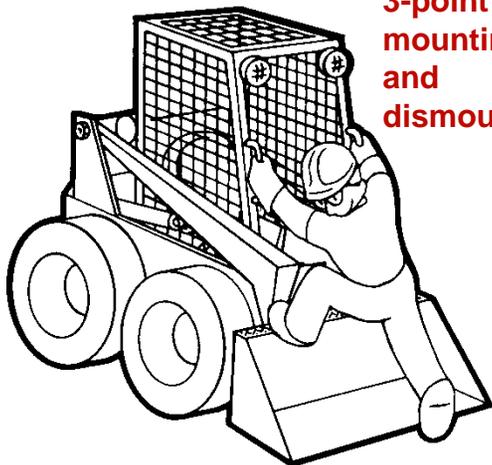
No riders anywhere:

- Even a toddler inside the cab will interfere with controls and vision.
- Buckets don't have shock absorbers. Children and adults can easily bounce out.

4

If you need to leave the seat:

- Lower the arms and stop the engine.
- If this can't be done, then lock the lift arms with the mechanical lockout system.



3-point mounting and dismounting

5

Keep track of shifting balance:

- A loaded bucket shifts weight to the front axle from the rear axle.
- Move skid-steer with heavy end facing up hill.
- Keep bucket level as lift arms are moved or as loader moves up and down slope.



Carry loads low

6

Know your field of vision:

- The lift arms, bucket and size of load alter your field of vision.
- Learn all the blind spots.
- Small children often can't be seen at all!

7

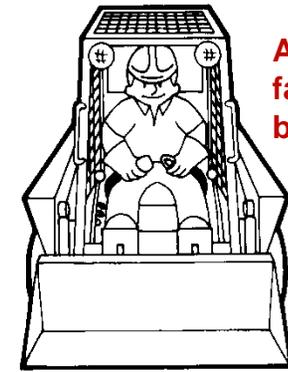
Operate only from operator's seat:

- Keep all body parts inside the cab.
- Keep bystanders at a safe distance.

8

Stay alert to moving parts:

- Never swing, lift, or move a load over anyone.
- Know the pinch points and avoid them!
- Inadvertent bumping of controls can result in instant lowering of lift arms.



Always fasten seat belts

9

When traveling:

- Keep the bucket low. If vision is blocked, travel backwards.
- Slow travel keeps the machine under control.
- Avoid hot-rod starts, stops, turns and changes in direction.
- If you must travel on roads, an effective slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem, flashing warning lights and escort vehicle are critical.



Travel backwards if forward vision blocked

10

When using the bucket:

- Tie down loose loads which can fall from the bucket.
- Use the right bucket type for the job.
- Do not overload: know the skid-steer and bucket's load limits!
- Operate lift and bucket controls smoothly.