

KCA TOOL BOX TALK: Skid Steer Loaders



TEAMWORK
IMPROVES SAFETY

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This type of loader is commonly used in agriculture, construction, and general industry for material handling and excavating. Recent NIOSH studies suggest that employers, supervisors, and workers might not be aware of the hazards of operating or working near skid steer loaders. Therefore, they might not follow safe work procedures for controlling these hazards.

Here is an Example: Ron and two coworkers were removing a fence (with stakes) that surrounded a housing development drainage pond. The loader was being used to pull up the stakes, because overgrowth around the pond made it difficult to remove them by hand. As the operator was raising the lift arms to pull the third stake, the loader tipped forward. To stabilize the machine, the operator lowered the bucket. At the same time, Ron (who had been standing in front and to the side of the loader) slipped and fell beneath the bucket. The bucket struck him in the chest and he died shortly after from traumatic chest injuries.

1. How could this accident have been avoided?
2. What are some of the dangers of working with loaders?

Preventing Injuries from Skid Steer Loaders:

- Always use and maintain the safety devices provided by the manufacturer; interlocked controls, backup alarms and seat belts/roll over protective systems.
- 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.
- Keep people clear when a load is being lifted.
- Operate on stable surfaces only.
- Never go over the manufacturer's recommended load capacity for the machine.

For more information visit OSHA STANDARDS: 1926.600 and Section 5(a)(1) of the OSHA Act

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Teamwork Improves Safety!

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