

# Skid Steer Safety

This is not a substitute for the operator's manual.  
Please use your owner's manual specific to vehicle/machinery



## Daily Inspection

- Tires / Track system
- Cab / Side screen
- Seatbelt & restraint bar
- Controls / Attachments
- Steps – clean-no mud or debris
- Fluid leaks

## Check Worksite

- Steep terrains
- Unstable / Uneven grounds
- Overhead power lines
- Buried utilities – water, cable, gas...

## Maintenance

- Before maintenance lower the attachments and hydraulic arms
- Apply grease
- Check coolant levels, change oil and filters, check lube levels
- Check your operators' manual for recommended monthly maintenance (i.e. around 250, 500 hours of operation)
- Seasonal maintenance – extreme weather conditions affect the viscosity of the fluids

## Entering/Exiting

- Enter only with the engine off, lift arms down and attachments on the ground or when the lift arm supports are in place
- Face the seat with both hands on the grab bars
- Never use the control levers as grab bars
- Keep all the surfaces clean
- Before leaving the operator seat lower the attachments, set the parking brake, and turn off the engine

## No Passengers/No Riders

- Never allow people to sit or stand in the bucket
- Never allow extra riders in the cab

## Safe practices

- Operate the loader from the operators' compartment.
- Use a safety bar/seatbelt.
- Clear the area of people (blind spots). The operator's view is limited. As a bystander never assume that the operator can see you.
- Each skid steer has a rated operating capacity. Do not lift loads more than the weight recommended by the manufacturer. Overloading can cause tipping and result in serious injury and damage to the machine and attachment.
- A skid-steer is prone to tipping. Always carry the load in the bucket close to the ground – this will minimize tipping.
- Never work under a raised attachment, unless the lift arms are secured in the "up" position using approved lift arm supports. Contact the manufacturer for information if your loader does not have lift arm supports.
- Do not travel across slopes. Travel straight up or down, with the heavy end of the machine pointed uphill.
- Whenever possible, perform maintenance with the engine off, key removed, parking brake set, wheels blocked, and attachments lowered or supported by an approved lift arm support.

## Skid Steer Pre-Operation Safety Checklist\*

### Tires

- Proper inflation?
- No visible damage?

### Cab & Side Screens

- Frame damage?
- No unauthorized alterations?
- Side screens attached properly?
- Damage to side screens?

### Safety Belt / Bar / Control interlocks

- Undamaged?
- Working properly?

### Grab Handles

- Non-slip grip undamaged?

### Steps

- Free from dirt, mud, clutter, etc.?
- Non-slip surface undamaged?

### Attachments - front and/or rear

- Attached correctly?
- Fastened securely?

### Fluids

- No signs of hydraulic fluid leaks
- No signs of fuel leaks
- No signs of brake fluid leaks

\*The checklist is based on a sample checklist provided by K-State Research and Extension: Skid Steer Loader Safety for Landscaping and Horticultural Services Industry