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# **SKID STEER SAFETY**

**Leader's Guide, Fact Sheet  
& Quiz**

**Item Number: 4751**

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***This easy-to-use Leader's Guide is provided to assist in conducting a successful presentation.***

## **PREPARING FOR THE MEETING**

Here are a few suggestions for using this program:

- a) Review the contents of the Fact Sheet that immediately follows this page to familiarize yourself with the program topic and the training points discussed in the program. The Fact Sheet also includes a list of Program Objectives that details the information that participants should learn from watching the program.
- b) If required by your organization, make an attendance record to be signed by each participant to document the training to be conducted.
- c) Prepare the area and equipment to be used for the training. Make sure the watching environment is comfortable and free from outside distractions. Also, ensure that participants can see and hear the TV screen or computer monitor without obstructions.
- d) Make copies of the Review Quiz included at the end of this Leader's Guide to be completed by participants at the conclusion of the presentation. Be aware that the page containing the answers to the quiz comes before the quiz itself, which is on the final page.

## **CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION**

- a) Begin the meeting by welcoming the participants. Introduce yourself and give each person an opportunity to become acquainted if there are new people joining the training session.
- b) Introduce the program by its title and explain to participants what they are expected to learn as stated in the Program Objectives of the Fact Sheet.
- c) Play the program without interruption. Upon completion, lead discussions about your organization's specific policies regarding the subject matter. Make sure to note any unique hazards associated with the program's topic that participants may encounter while performing their job duties at your facility.
- d) Hand out copies of the review quiz to all of the participants and make sure each one completes it before concluding the training session.

# 4751 SKID STEER SAFETY FACT SHEET

**LENGTH: 15 MINUTES**

## **PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:**

Whether you're excavating at a job site, tending livestock, laboring indoors, or removing snow, the compact design and versatility of a skid-loader can undermine how dangerous this equipment is to operate when proper precautions aren't taken. Skid steer loaders have become the number one workhorse for public works and construction. With attachments such as trenchers, plows, grapples, buckets and hoes, hydraulic breakers and sweepers, and more, their versatility is limitless. They can also be dangerous. This program trains your employees on safe operating procedures.

## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:**

After watching the program, the participant should be able to explain the following:

- What hazards skid steer operators must control to prevent rollover and run over accidents;
- How to enter and exit the cab safely;
- What precautions to follow when driving a skid steer;
- Why it is important to use the safeguards provided on the vehicle.

## **PROGRAM OUTLINE:**

### **SKID STEER HAZARDS**

- Skid steer operators and workers can be at risk from rollover and run over accidents.
- Accidents can result because of the absence of operator training.
- The operator's controls are located between the lift arms causing operators to enter and exit through the front of the equipment.
- With this entry and exit, it is possible to accidentally activate a foot or hand control causing movement of the equipment and lift arms.
- Uncontrolled bounce of the skid steer can lead to a lack of full control resulting in striking an object or worker.
- It is critical to become familiar with the operating procedures in the manufacturer's manual.
- Most serious skid steer injuries and deaths are associated with being pinned between the bucket and frame of the equipment.
- Check the work site for soil conditions and obstacles that might contribute to instability and tip over.
- Equipment should not be changed or adapted, especially on the interlock system as they are designed for your safety.
- The skid steer is similar to a forklift. Avoid high speed operation and sudden starts and stops.
- When operating in the vicinity of overhead power lines, there is a risk of electrocution.
- Keep a minimum of 10 feet from any overhead power lines.
- The work site must be evaluated to make sure that underground utilities have been located and are safe.
- There should be no passengers on the skid steer equipment.
- Loads and lifting attachments can change the weight distribution of the skid steer.
- For the best stability, keep the bucket level while raising the arms and the load low to the ground during transit.
- Avoid undercutting or digging into high embankments as the wall can collapse.
- When changing buckets or installing attachments, make sure connectors are securely fastened.

### **SKID STEER AWARENESS**

- Two-thirds of a skid steer's weight is on the rear wheels when the bucket is empty.
- When the bucket is loaded, the weight shifts to the front axle.
- Never try to operate the controls or steering levers while outside the cab.
- When the pressure on the controls is released, all of the machine's functions should stop.

### **ENTERING AND EXITING THE EQUIPMENT**

- Only enter the cab of the skid steer when the bucket and attachments are flat on the ground or when the lift-arm

safety supports are in place.

- Do not use foot or hand controls as steps or handholds to enter or exit the vehicle.
- Prior to leaving the operator's seat, lower the bucket or attachments flat to the ground.
- In case of an emergency and you can't exit through the front of the vehicle, use the emergency exit through the roof.

### **INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE**

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance on the vehicle.
- Perform a walk-around of the equipment prior to beginning work.
- Before servicing the equipment, set the parking brake, lower the bucket or attachment to the ground, turn off the engine and remove key from the ignition.
- Contact the manufacturer if the equipment is not equipped with lift arm supports.
- Never work on the skid steer with the engine turned on.
- Replace guards and shields after maintenance.
- Do not bypass or defeat interlock controls.

### **TRAINING**

- Training must include the risks and hazards of the equipment.
- According to OSHA training requirements, a worker must be trained by his employer regardless of prior experience.
- It is the supervisor's responsibility to make sure skid steer operators receive training.
- Operators should be trained in the following safe procedures:
  - Keep seat belt fastened and restraint bar in place.
  - Perform work on level ground for stability.
  - Travel with the bucket at lowest position.
  - Avoid traveling across slopes.
  - Keep bystanders at a distance.
  - Operator must be fully trained and competent on the equipment.

### **SAFE SKID STEER DRIVING**

- Keep the bucket low to the ground when traveling.
- Avoid rough terrain and steep slopes.
- When traveling on inclines, always move up and down, never across the face on an angle.
- Do not jerk steering levers and raise loads slowly.
- An empty bucket has more weight on the back.
- A full load has more weight in the front.
- It is not recommended to travel long distances on roads or highways.
- When picking up material, tilt the bucket and then back away from the load.
- If the skid steer becomes unstable, lower the arms to regain stability.
- When transporting the equipment on a trailer, secure the skid steer with load binders.
- Use only ratchet style binders and avoid hand traps.

### **SKID STEER SAFEGUARDS**

- Most injuries and deaths involving skid steer operators can be due to lack of training.
- The purpose of interlock controls is to not allow the operation controls to function unless the seat belt and/or the restraint bar are secured.
- Side screens and seat belts provide rollover protection.
- Side screens help keep the operator from being crushed between moving lift arms or falling out of the side or back of the equipment.
- Contact a supervisor if your equipment is missing side screens, interlocks or seat belts.
- Skid steer equipment is an important piece of machinery on the worksite; however, it can be dangerous to operate so follow your company's safety procedures.

## SKID STEER SAFETY

### ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. a
6. a
7. d
8. d
9. c
10. c

**SKID STEER SAFETY**  
**REVIEW QUIZ**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The following questions are provided to determine how well you understand the information presented in this program.*

1. The most serious skid steer injuries and deaths are associated with being pinned between the bucket and frame of the equipment.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
2. Bypassing the safety systems places your well-being at risk and may add to your liability should someone be injured.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
3. When handling rocks or other loose materials, tilting the bucket back with the arms raised cannot cause material to fall back into the cab.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
4. It is okay to undercut or dig into high embankments.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
5. Exceeding the rated operating capacity can make the skid steer excessively front heavy reducing stability and handling.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
6. Effort must be made to keep a minimum of \_\_\_ feet from any overhead lines.
  - a. 10
  - b. 15
  - c. 20
  
7. Skid steers must be equipped with rollover protection to include \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Side screens
  - b. Seat belts
  - c. Interlocks
  - d. All of the above
  
8. \_\_\_\_\_ help keep the operator from getting crushed between moving arms or falling out of the equipment.
  - a. Guardrails
  - b. Seat belts
  - c. Harnesses
  - d. Side Screens
  
9. The operator should enter the cab of the skid steer only when the bucket or other attachments are \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Raised
  - b. Loaded
  - c. Flat on the ground
  - d. None of the above
  
10. The key to operating the skid steer equipment safely is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Experience
  - b. Read the manual
  - c. Training
  - d. Contacting the manufacturer