



# Tailgate Safety Talk

**Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries**

## Backhoe Operation on the Jobsite

Before operating a backhoe, engage the parking brake, lower the front-mounted equipment to the ground. Shift the transmission to neutral, lower the stabilizers and level the machine as much as possible. NEVER enter or allow anyone else to enter the backhoe swing pivot area. Death or serious injury can result.

Never operate backhoe controls from the ground. Always operate from the seat. Don't dig under the machine or stabilizers. A cave-in could result and the machine could fall into the excavation. On the other hand, be careful that your machine doesn't roll into the excavation when the stabilizers are raised.

Electrocution can result from contacting or approaching underground or overhead power cables. Check overhead clearances. Use a signal person for guidance if necessary. Make sure you know the location of gas lines, water pipes, or cables before digging.

Before lifting a load, check the operator's manual for backhoe lifting capacity. Overloading is dangerous. Make sure you are on solid level ground before lifting anything. When using the backhoe to lift and place objects such as drainage pipe and tile, position your machine so that the lowering is over the back end. Lower the stabilizers and loader bucket to the ground before lifting. If ground is soft, place pads or timbers under each stabilizer.

Make sure the load is properly balanced and lift slowly so it doesn't swing around. If necessary, you may need to use a tag line for additional control. Never lift the load higher than necessary to clear obstacles in the swing path and lower the load as soon as the obstacle is cleared.

Select level ground for parking, whenever possible. If you must park on a slope or incline, position the machine at right angles to the slope, engage the parking brake, lower the loader and backhoe buckets to the ground and block the wheels. When you leave or climb onto the machine, always maintain a three point contact with the steps and hand holds and face the machine. Never jump off. Be careful of slippery conditions on platforms, steps, ladders and handholds.

*Users of this tailgate talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations.*