



Tailgate Safety Talk

Information You Can Use to Prevent Accidents & Injuries

Backhoes and loaders are some of the most “popular” machines on a work site. And often, they’re the most abused equipment on site. When accidents occur involving backhoes and loaders, they are often tragic. Common accidents are overturns, operator falls, run-overs and contact with other people and other objects. Here are some tips for your personal protection.

ALWAYS

Before you begin your workday, you should inspect the equipment and make sure everything is in good operating condition. Check for broken, missing, or damaged parts. Check the tires for cuts, bulges, and correct pressure. Check the hydraulics for proper operation.

If your equipment is equipped with a 3-point hitch mounted backhoe, check that the lockdown device is in place and adjusted to prevent the backhoe from being pushed upward by digging force.

Clean up – clean windshields, mirrors, lights, steps and handholds. Fuel up – never fill the fuel tank with the engine running or while smoking. Before starting, walk completely around the equipment. Make sure no one is under, on it, or close to it.

Stay in the operator’s seat at all times when operating and keep your seat belt/operator restraint fastened when you are driving to the worksite or operating the equipment. Be in control at all times. Look and listen for malfunctions. Stop if you detect a strange noise or erratic operation. Correct or report trouble right away.

Always look around before you back up, hook up, or swing an attachment. Take it slow and easy when operating in tight or congested areas. Give the right of way to other loaded equipment. Maintain a safe distance from dump trucks and other equipment.

NEVER

Never allow an untrained or unqualified person to operate a backhoe. Never use a bucket for a work platform or personnel carrier.

Don’t obstruct your vision when traveling or working. Carry the bucket LOW for maximum stability and visibility when traveling. Operate at speeds slow enough so that you have complete control at all times. Travel slowly over rough or slippery ground and on hillsides.

LOCK DOWN

Whenever you leave the equipment, always lower the loader bucket to the ground, Put the backhoe in the transport lock position or lower the backhoe bucket to the ground. Engage the parking brake, stop the engine, cycle the hydraulic controls, and remove the key.

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.