

USING BACKHOES OR LOADERS

What Can Happen

- Crushed arms, legs, or body
- Hearing loss
- Illness or death from carbon monoxide or nitrous oxide poisoning



Before Use

- Conduct a pre-startup inspection of the machine every day to look for broken, missing or damaged parts; make the necessary repairs or replacements
- Keep the machine clean – especially steps, hand rails, pedals, grab irons, and the floor of the cab; slippery surfaces are very hazardous
- Remove or secure loose items in the driver area that could interfere with operating controls
- When mounting the machine, use the hand rails, ladders, and steps provided, not the controls or the steering wheel – use the three point contact method

During Use

- Keep the bucket as low as possible when turning and transporting
- Level the machine, use the stabilizers and operate the backhoe only from the driver's seat
- Dump the bucket uphill if possible when operating on a slope
- If you must dump the bucket downhill, swing around slowly to avoid tipping the machine

- If using the backhoe as a hoist, keep the weight over the back of the machine – never the side – to avoid tipping
- Be sure your load is balanced and move the boom slowly to avoid swaying
- An elevated loader changes the centre of gravity of the tractor and can cause the tractor to tip under conditions that would normally be safe
- When raising the loader bucket, be sure area is free of overhead obstacles – such as power lines
- Load the bucket evenly from side to side and keep within the normal capacity of the tractor and loader
- Use the recommended amount of ballast to give the tractor extra stability

After Use

- Park on level ground if possible, set the parking brake and place the transmission in park
- Lower the bucket to the ground
- Stop the engine and remove the key
- Work the hydraulic controls to relieve the pressure
- Wait until all motion has stopped and then dismount using the steps and safety holds

And Remember...

- **Do not** swing the bucket over a truck cab or load the truck while the driver is still inside
- Physically block the bucket and/or arm if they have to be raised for maintenance
- Never walk or work under a raised loader
- Ensure that non-essential bystanders are not in the work area
- Never allow extra riders on the equipment when operating

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