

Safety and health alert

05/95 Fatal accident - skid steer loader

Incident

A 53 year old owner/operator received fatal injuries unloading a skid steer loader from a truck tray. The skid steer loader was transported with the bucket resting on the truck tray above the cab. The skid steer loader moved backwards when the tray was tilted slightly and the tail gate was opened, removing support from the bucket. The operator climbed underneath the bucket lift arm to enter the machine, accidentally pressing the left foot pedal (lift cylinder control) with his right foot and dropping the bucket, trapping and crushing his upper body under the left bucket lift arm.

Factors

1. The skid steer loader was transported with the bucket raised.
2. The bucket was not supported in the raised position.
3. The operator exposed himself to risk of injury when he entered the machine under the bucket lift arm.

Recommendations

1. Skid steer loaders should be operated according to manufacturer's instructions.
2. Skid steer loaders should be reverse loaded onto trucks. The truck should be long enough to accommodate the skid steer loader with the bucket lowered.
3. Skid steer loaders should not be parked with the bucket raised unless fitted with a safety lock.

Operators must never enter or leave a skid steer loader under a raised bucket lift arm, unless a safety lock is used.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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