

Let's Talk Loader Safety



What is a loader?

A loader is an implement attached to a tractor by "arms" (hitches) allowing it to be raised and lowered. Loaders lift and move large amounts of materials.

How does it work?

A single or tandem hydraulic pump powers implements. A single pump provides power to both the implement and steering causing a loss of steering power when using an implement with a heavy load such as a full loader bucket. A tandem pump provides power to both the steering and implements without robbing either of power.

HAZARDS:

A front end loader changes the tractor's center of gravity reducing its stability and increasing the risk of overturning. Greater instability occurs when the loader is raised as the center of gravity is raised and shifts forward. Uneven or loose terrain, obstacles, sharp turns, and jerky movement also increase instability and chance of rollover. Maneuverability is affected by the loader, especially if it is full. Additional clearance is needed during operation to account for the extra length.

INJURY EXAMPLE:

#1 Cal was operating a loader to remove tree limbs that had fallen during a storm. Ty was standing under the loader's mechanical arm. Cal was communicating the work schedule to Ty. Cal did not know Ty was standing directly in the way of the arm and lowered the mechanical arm on top of the Ty's head. Emergency Medical Service was called and Ty was transported to the hospital where he later died.

BEFORE USE

- ✓ Read and follow the operator's manual.
- ✓ Use ROPS and a seatbelt for rollover protection.
- ✓ Set wheels at the widest recommend width.
- ✓ Add wheel ballast or weights per the operator's manual.
- ✓ Perform a safety/maintenance check before use.

TRAVELING & TURNING

- ✓ Travel and turn tractor at low speed.
- ✓ Carry load as low as possible to the ground.
- ✓ Do not travel with bucket in raised position.
- ✓ Do not turn with a load raised above the tractor.
- ✓ Keep loaded bucket facing uphill when driving.
- ✓ Be alert for overhead powerlines, obstructions, uneven ground, and holes in the ground.
- ✓ Keep away from the edges of banks and slopes.

LOADING & UNLOADING

- ✓ Only operate controls when seated on the tractor.
- ✓ Slowly and steadily raise and lower loader arms.
- ✓ Drive in straight line when loading and unloading.
- ✓ Do not try to load and turn at the same time.
- ✓ Load bucket evenly and keep load balanced.
- ✓ Do not overload. Follow the load limits listed in the operator's manual.

SAFETY FOR SELF & OTHERS

- ✓ The bucket is **NOT** for people. Never lift, carry or allow anyone to work in the bucket.
- ✓ Do not stand, walk or work under a raised loader or allow others to do so.
- ✓ Never move or swing a load with people around.
- ✓ Lower the bucket to ground or remove the loader from the tractor when not in use.
- ✓ Use the cylinder safety locks or otherwise block a raised loader during maintenance.

Let's Talk about our Worksites

1. Are we familiar with the operating manual and load restrictions?
2. What do we do to ensure there are not people in the area or obstacles in the way?
3. Are we following safe operating procedures? How can we improve?



Grain Handling Safety Coalition

LOADER SAFETY



REMEMBER:

- Use front loader only for intended purpose.
- Use low speed when traveling & turning.
- Keep bucket low when traveling.
- Check for power lines & other obstacles when bucket is raised.
- Keep people away from work area.

