

Risk Assessment Skid Steer Loader And wheeled Digger

- These machines have many blind spots due to their design. Care must be taken when moving about. The risks are to the public, co-workers and property. In order to minimise injury, ensure that the rear window is kept clean, have a good look around the machine before climbing in. Before making a full turn move the machine only slightly in order to get a view of the area that was blind.
- Loading machines are unstable by design when travelling at speed the bucket should be kept near the ground, this will keep instability to the minimum. Failure to observe the above could result in the machine toppling over resulting in bodily injury.
- Care should be taken when travelling to ensure that the bucket is not too low because the bucket could strike a raised object such as a manhole cover. The sudden stop could result in bodily injury and serious damage to the machine.
- With the ability to turn on a sixpence, unwary pedestrians can get caught out by sudden direction changes. Be considerate of pedestrians to give them time to react to your new choice of direction in order to prevent injury.
- The FOPS system on skid steer loaders are barely adequate, in order to prevent spillage into cab and on to operator, fill bucket then shake off surplus before raising above head height.
- Care should be taken when entering/exiting machine as both jewellery and loose clothing can get caught in doorway and controls resulting in bodily injury. Don't wear rings and avoid loose clothing.
- Be aware that when the bucket/dipper is raised overhead electric cables can be struck. Risk of electric shock so survey the site before operating, if cables are evident obtain advice on safe operating distance from cable, then observe the advice given.
- When digging below ground level electric cables can be cut through. Risk of electric shock. Conduct site investigation before commencing task. Where cables are known to exist, cautious hand digging is the best course of option. Use Cable Avoidance Tool if digging deeper than 150mm.

