

Be Wary of Skid-Steer Loaders

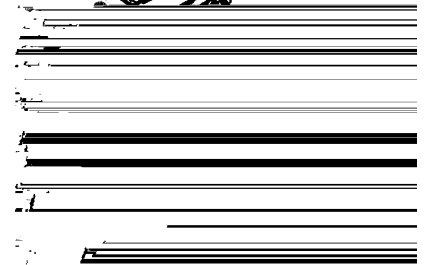
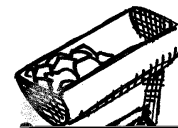
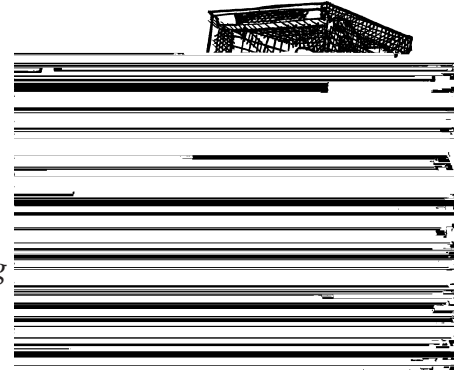
Editor's note: Our Tailgate Training Tip Sheets are available in Spanish at www.gemplers.com

- **Skid-steer loaders are useful but can be very dangerous**
- **Never operate a loader unless you have been authorized and are properly trained**
- **Don't allow passengers – including children – on a skid-steer loader.**

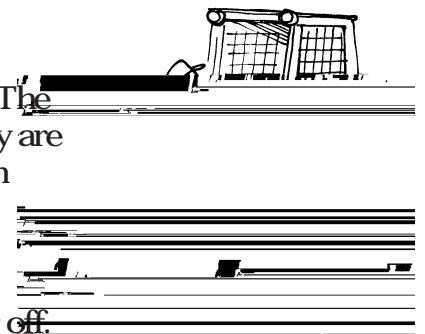
Note to trainer: Follow this script or use it to help guide you through a training 10- to 15-minute session for your ag/hort workers. You may photocopy this sheet for your employees' personal use. However, it may not be published or sold.

Skid-steer loaders can be very dangerous

- Skid-steer loaders are useful machines, but they can also be very dangerous.
- It's important that you never operate a loader unless you have been authorized and are properly trained. See your supervisor if you have any questions about the safe operation of a skid-steer loader.
- Serious injuries or deaths have occurred when skid-steer loader operators
 - are pinned between the bucket and the frame
 - are pinned between the lift arms and the frame
 - are pinned between the loader and another object
 - lose control of the loader and it overturns
 - allow passengers to ride on the bucket
 - allow children to operate the machine or are under it or close to it.



- Be sure the lift arms are lowered and the bucket is flat on the ground. The only time you should get on a loader when the lift arms are up is if they are being held up by a mechanical restraining device. The hydraulic system alone isn't enough. See your supervisor if you have any questions.
- When getting on a loader, face the seat and grab the handholds on the machine. Don't use control levers in place of handholds.
- Never jump on or off the machine. Use both hands when getting on or off.
- Before leaving the operator's seat, lower the bucket flat to the ground, put the controls in neutral, set the parking brake, and turn off the engine. Face the machine when you are getting off.



(Continued on back)

See our full line of safety supplies, including respirators, eye and ear protection, coveralls, first aid and more.

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Operating a skid-steer loader

- Carefully review the manufacturer's instructions before