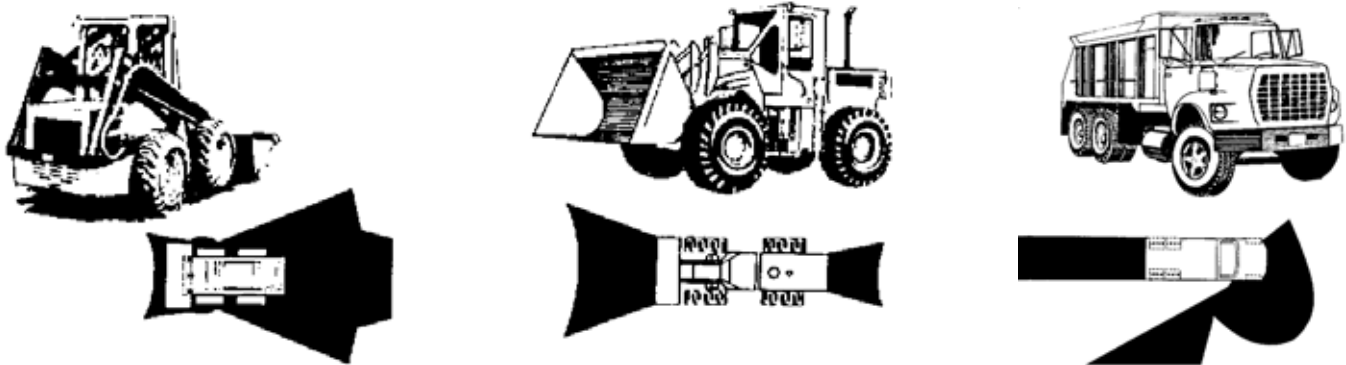


Blind Spots Everywhere

A “blind spot” is any area that a driver can’t see by looking around or by using his or her mirrors, and they can be a big problem in scrap processing operations. Blind spots are caused by the way the equipment has been designed to get the work done. In the examples below, the shadowed areas around each piece of equipment represent a blind spot. If someone or something is in this area, it will be invisible to the driver or operator.



Blind Spot Safety

When it comes to working safely around equipment, understanding blind spots is everyone’s responsibility. It is just as important for workers on the ground to understand the nature of blind spots as it is for equipment operators—maybe even *more* important. Remember that if you can’t see the driver’s eyes, he can’t see you, and that you should never approach operating mobile equipment unless and until you have the driver’s attention. For drivers, it is important to know where blind spots are and never assume that the “coast is clear.” Back up alarms and lighted beacons should always be in good working condition on every piece of equipment.

When it comes to protecting customers, try to keep them as far away from equipment as possible. The general public knows little about blind spots and thinks nothing about walking behind skid steers and other material handlers. Every year, customers at scrap recycling facilities are injured or killed by yard equipment whose operators never saw them approaching.

Use your safety sense when working around equipment. Workers: if you are not sure you have equipment operator’s attention, you probably don’t—so keep your distance until you do. Equipment Operators: If you ever get that funny feeling that someone or something you can’t see is behind your equipment, you’re probably right. Stop what you are doing and check it out.

This e-mail was produced by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. For more information, visit us on the Web at www.ISRI.org
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