

Front-end Loader Safety

Front-end loaders are versatile and can be a valuable tool for scrap yard work. However, they can be dangerous if not operated properly. Always remember these tips when working on and around a loader.

Before Working with a Loader

Read and follow the directions in the operator's manual for the equipment. Only operate the loader if you have been trained and authorized to do so. Make sure to always wear your seatbelt.

Working with a Loader

Use a front-end loader only for its specific purpose. Never use it for such things as breaking scrap or to knock something down. Never allow people to ride in the bucket. Never walk or work under a raised loader. Raise and lower the loader arms slowly and steadily. Never move or swing a load with people in the work area.

Load the bucket evenly, and avoid overloading to prevent upsets. Do not exceed the load limits listed in the operator's manual. Keep the bucket low while carrying loads and operating on hills. Carrying the load high can cause the machine to roll over if you hit a hole or a bump.

With loaded buckets, drive forward when going uphill. Back downhill with loads. Allow extra room to turn and maneuver and be aware that front-end loaders have many blind spots making it difficult to see co-workers and pedestrians.

Travel slowly with front-end loaders filled. Carry the load low, to maintain stability and visibility. However, make sure the load is high enough to avoid contact with the pavement. Be careful when turning with loads, especially those that may shift or slide.

Watch for overhead wire and obstacles when the loader is raised. If working inside buildings, watch for low ceilings, beams and doorways. Also, be sure there is enough ventilation so carbon monoxide from the engine will not build up.

Finishing Work and Servicing Loaders

When leaving the front-end loader, lower the bucket to the ground. This will keep others from accidentally lowering it and injuring someone.

When working on front-end loaders, take precautions. Have the loader safely blocked before working under it or through the loader arms. Work with the bucket down. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for routine maintenance.

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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