

SAFETY ALERT—Please Post

Use skid-steer loader lift arm supports during maintenance that requires lift arms to be raised

What happened in Massachusetts?

Since 2009, four workers in Massachusetts have been killed on the job while repairing skid-steer or similar loaders (e.g. multi terrain).

In two of these incidents investigated by MA FACE, 2009 and 2012, the victims were performing maintenance tasks beneath the loader's raised lift arm without using the lift arm support, and were crushed between the lift arm and cab.



What can be done?

In each incident, adequate safety procedures could have ensured the loader's lift arm was secured against motion during maintenance, preventing the fatality.

Employers should:

- Ensure that equipment is inspected prior to each use to confirm that safeguards and interlocks are functioning properly.
- Ensure that lift arm support devices are installed for maintenance tasks that require the lift arm to be in the raised position. (This may require two people.)
- Ensure that safeguards and interlocks are used and never bypassed.
- Ensure that employees never access the controls of a loader from outside the loader's cab.

See reverse for maintenance performance recommendations →

Got lockout/tagout? It's Required.

Many employers think of stationary machinery when they think of lockout/tagout, but OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.147 also applies to mobile machinery, like skid-steer loaders:

The control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout) requires that employers establish procedures for isolating machines and equipment during servicing and maintenance from the input of energy by affixing appropriate locks or tags to energy isolating devices and then blocking and securing any movable part and training employees on these procedures.

In the 2009 and 2012 incidents, the employers did not have procedures for lockout/tagout. These procedures could have prevented the worker deaths.

For free assistance in reviewing or developing lockout/tagout procedures for your workplace, see the Resources section for information on the Massachusetts On-site Consultation Program.



FACE Facts | MA FACE MA FACE (Massachusetts Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation) seeks to prevent work fatalities by identifying and investigating these incidents and developing prevention strategies for those who can intervene in the workplace. MA FACE is supported by cooperative agreement # 2U60OH008490-06 from CDC-NIOSH. This document may be copied freely and found online at www.mass.gov/dph/FACE. If you have comments or questions, call the MA FACE Project at 1-800-338-5223.



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Perform Maintenance Safely on Skid-Steer Loaders

- **Inspect equipment prior to each use.**

After the 2009 incident, it was discovered that the operator's seat interlock on the loader was not working.

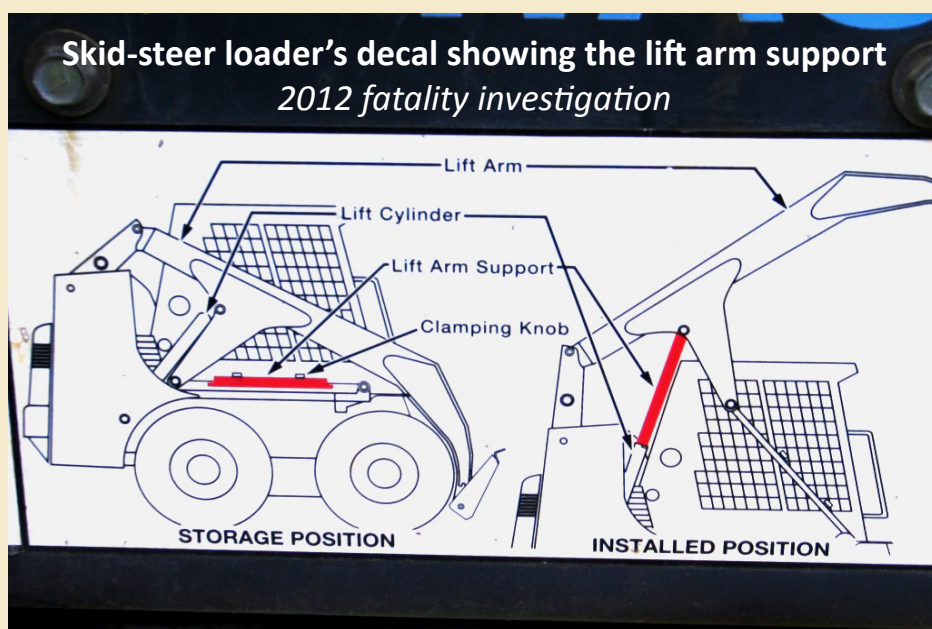
- **Never perform maintenance or service tasks under a raised lift arm unless a manufacturer-approved lift arm support is properly in place.**

In each of the cases noted, the lift arm support was not used to keep the lift arm from dropping. The workers died after the lift arm dropped and crushed them.

- **Read and follow the manufacturer's operator and service manual procedures and all instruction decals on the machine.**



In the 2012 incident, the way the victim was found indicates that he was working underneath the raised arm without using the lift arm support.



- **Use the loader's controls only from the operator's seat, inside the cab.**

In the 2009 incident, the victim likely stood on a step ladder and reached up into the cab to start the loader's engine, and unintentionally engaged the control that raises and lowers the loader's lift arm. In the 2012 incident, when the victim was found, the operator seat was empty with the restraint bar in the down position. The seat restraint bar should only be down while the operator is seated in the cab because, in the down position, it allows the lift arm to move.

Resources

On-site Consultation Program, MA Department of Labor Standards (DLS)

DLS offers free consultation services to help employers recognize and control potential hazards at their worksites, and assists in training employees. www.mass.gov/dols/consult

MA FACE, MA Department of Public Health

Full reports of incidents are available for free online including those referenced in this fact sheet. www.mass.gov/dph/FACE

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Centers for Disease Control

NIOSH Alert: Preventing Injuries and Deaths from Skid-Steer Loaders (Publication No. 11-128) www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2011-128/pdfs/2011-128.pdf

WorkSafeBC, Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia

ACCIDENT ALERT. Skid Steer Loaders: Raised lift arms can be deadly! (Publication No. AA 04-01) <http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/posters.asp?ReportID=33776>