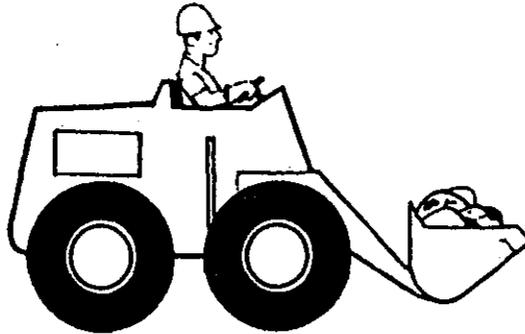


## Front End Loader Safety



The front end loader is one of the most hazardous pieces of equipment that we use in road work. Fatalities involving the front end loader lead all other equipment used in the mineral industry. Statistics show that most accidents occur while the machine is backing up. Most fatalities occur when the unloaded machine is being driven at high speeds from one area to another. This is especially dangerous because the front end loader, when empty, tends to bounce and weave at high speeds. Downgrades are also particularly hazardous due to the increased problems in controlling the vehicle. Other hazards include collisions with other equipment while operating in congested areas, getting caught in pinch points of the bucket arms or articulated steering, and spilling of parts of the load on the operator or others working in the area.

1. Before starting the front end loader the operator should check the machine for safety factors, including tires, brakes, emergency brakes, hydraulic systems, steering, lights, and alarm systems. Use a checklist. If anything is wrong with the equipment it should be reported. Do not start the machine if it is not in safe condition!
2. The operator should wear the proper protective equipment for the job: safety hat, shoes, and glasses, and any other equipment needed for the specific job.
3. Before starting the machine the operator should make a thorough check of the area around the machine to be sure that the area is clear for movement.

4. No riders other than the operator should ever be allowed on the machine.
5. The operator should move the equipment very cautiously, especially in congested areas. When backing, the operator must have a clear field of vision and signal by horn or other device so that others in the area will know what he is doing.
6. While driving the machine, the operator should consider road conditions, weather, traffic, and grade. The loader should be moved at a speed slow enough to insure total operator control at all times.
7. When working near embankments or on grades, edges must be guarded by riprap, barricades, berms, or other suitable means to lessen the possibility of running off the edge. The loader speed should be regulated to a minimum, the engine should be engaged, and the transmission should be in low range.
8. In loading a truck, load from the driver's side whenever possible. The loader must know where the driver is at all times and traffic patterns for the area must be known and followed.
9. On leaving the cab, the bucket must be grounded and the machine shut down and locked to prevent any use by unauthorized persons.

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These safety tips have been provided to you  
by your New Hampshire Technology Transfer Center

-- Please post for employees to read --

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