

Skidder Accident Injures Worker

A mechanic of 30 years experience was severely injured while he was unloading a **JOHN DEERE MODEL 540 SKIDDER** from a trailer.



The left front axle of the SKIDDER broke, tipping the SKIDDER off the trailer. The mechanic was in the SKIDDER cab which was approximately 2.5 metres above the ground. As the SKIDDER tipped the mechanic put his feet down to brace himself when the cab hit the ground.

The worker's left foot slipped on the frozen ground and was caught between the R.O.P.S. canopy and the ground. The worker sustained a crush injury to the left ankle. The left leg was subsequently amputated above the ankle as a result of the injury.

The worker was not wearing the vehicle seat belt at the time of the accident because he was only going to move the SKIDDER a short distance. Had the seat belt been in use the worker would have been restrained inside the cab and would not have sustained the crushed foot.

Seat belts should be worn whenever vehicles are in motion to protect operators in the event of an accident.

Occupational Health & Safety
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