

# MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Safety Tips: Front End Loader Safety



Front end loaders are very versatile and a valuable piece of equipment.

The center of gravity and stability on a front end loader can change quickly and drastically. Because of this, they can be very dangerous. With the center of gravity changing, it presents a potential tipping hazard for the operator.

Following are some tips or precautions that, if followed, will reduce the chances of having an accident with a loader:

- Get familiar with the operator's manual for instructions on operating the tractor and loader. Be sure that the loader is installed correctly and doesn't exceed the tractor's handling capacity.
- Keep the bucket low while carrying loads and when operating on hills. A hole or bump can easily upset the tractor if the bucket is carried too high. The higher the bucket is carried, the greater the danger of an upset. With loaded buckets, drive forward when going uphill. Back downhill with loads.
- Travel Slowly. Be careful when turning with loads, especially those that may shift or slide.
- Add extra weight on the rear of the tractor to counter-balance the weight of the load on the front. Check the operator's manual for specific instructions.
- Keep the tractor wheels spread as wide as possible. Avoid using loaders on tractors that have a tricycle front suspension. The chances of a side upset are greatly increased.

- Load the bucket evenly and avoid overloading to prevent upsets. The capacity of the loader is specified in the operator's manual.
- Watch where you are going. Avoid holes, rocks, loose fill, or any other obstacles which may cause you to upset the tractor. If you are working inside buildings, watch for low ceiling beams or doorways that could cause you to get pinned or crushed between them and the tractor. Also, be sure that there is adequate ventilation so carbon monoxide from the tractor's engine will not build up.
- Do not try to operate the controls from beside or behind the tractor. Operate only from the tractor seat so that you will have full control over the entire machine.
- Use the tractor only for its specific purpose. Never use it for such things as removing fence posts, towing, or knocking something down.
- Never allow anyone to ride in the bucket.
- If you plan to use the tractor for tilling purposes, be sure to remove the bucket first.
- Lower the bucket to the ground when you leave the machine. This will keep children or others from accidentally lowering it and hurting someone.
- A tractor with roll-over protection and seat belts will provide you the greatest protection.
- 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. Always follow the manufacturer's instruction manual for routine maintenance.

**GOOD HABITS WILL NORMALLY KEEP  
YOU OUT OF TROUBLE!**



**FORGET THE NURSE WITH SAFETY  
FIRST!**