Utilities

Electrocution can result from contacting or approaching underground or overhead power cables.

**WARNING:** Never approach overhead power lines with any part of your machine unless all local, state/provincial and federal (OSHA) required safety precautions have been taken. Use extreme caution.

Check overhead clearances: know your margin of safety. If possible, have power to the lines disconnected. If not possible, request a signal person for guidance. (36)

**36 WRONG**

**WARNING:** Keep Away! Electrocution can result from touching or being near a machine that is in contact or near an electrical source.

**37 WRONG**

Make sure you know the location of gas lines and water pipes, or cables before digging. (37)

A cut fiber optic cable can cause severe eye injury if you look into the damaged end of the cable.

Call the digger's HOT LINE.
3-Point Hitch Backhoe

If you are using a 3-point hitch backhoe, see page 13 for basic safety information.

**WARNING:** Before using a 3-point hitch backhoe, make sure the hitch lock-down device is correctly installed and adjusted to prevent the backhoe from being pushed upward by digging force. If the backhoe moves upward, the operator could be crushed against the ROPS, FOPS structure or cab. (38)

Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions for backhoe positioning before you dig with the 3-point hitch mounted backhoe.

If a separate seat is provided for a 3-point hitch backhoe, make sure you are seated firmly in this seat before operating the backhoe.

Be extra careful with a 3-point hitch mount.
Lifting Load With Backhoe

Before lifting a load, see the manufacturer's manual for backhoe lifting capacity.

**WARNING:** OVERLOADING IS DANGEROUS. Make certain you are within the safe load and work radius limitations of this machine and are on solid, level ground before lifting any load.

When using the backhoe to lift and place objects, such as sewer pipe, position your machine so that lowering is over the back end. (39)

Always lower the stabilizers and the loader bucket to the ground before lifting. If ground is soft, place pads or timbers under each stabilizer.

When lifting, be sure the load is properly balanced. Move slowly so the load does not sway or swing around. (40) If necessary, use a tag line for additional control.

Overloading is dangerous.
Never lift a load higher than necessary to clear obstacles in the swing path. Lower the load as soon as obstacle is cleared.

**WARNING:** Never allow anyone beneath a suspended load.

Never leave a load hanging, lower it to a stable surface as soon as possible. If you must leave your machine, lower the load and block it in place.

**Towing**

Towing over-the-road is not recommended. If your machine must be towed on the jobsite, use a rigid tow bar (not a chain or cable). The operator must be in the operator’s seat, with safety belt fastened, to maintain control of the machine. (41)

Go slow when you tow.
Loading And Unloading

If machine is equipped with a ROPS, always wear your seat belt/operator restraint when loading or unloading your machine. (42)
All machines are not loaded the same way, and the procedures recommended by the manufacturer should always be followed.

Several precautions are applicable to all machines:
- Know the correct loading and unloading procedures for your machine.
- Load and unload on a level surface.
- Block transport vehicle so it cannot move.
- Use ramps of adequate size and strength; low angle, and proper height.
- Keep trailer bed and ramps clear of mud, oil, ice, snow and all materials which can become slippery.
- On articulated machines, attach the steering frame lock after loading: remove it before unloading.
- Chain and block machine securely for transport. (43)
- Keep everyone clear of the area.
- Secure attachments in transport mode. Lower loader bucket.

Know the overall height and width of the transporter and backhoe/loader combined to avoid overhead and narrow obstructions.

Check your overall transport height.