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| Revision #:  Written by: | Date: Month DD, YYYY  Approved by: |
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| Related Documents: | * Refueling Procedure * Owner’s Manual for Skidder * Working Alone Procedure * Part 7 Occupational Health and Safety General Regulations | |
| When to use this SWP: | A skidder drags material from the woods to a separate area or to the roadside. Motorized skidders are articulating and have either cable drum & arch or rear grapple mount with a front blade to push and level material in the front. | |
| Hazards & Risks: | * Bystander run over * Collisions * Electrical contact * Equipment failure * Crush Injuries * Slip & fall * Pinch Points | |
| Personal Protective Equipment: | CSA Approved   * Steel toes * Hearing Protection * High Visibility Clothing * Gloves * Hardhat with face shield * Safety glasses | |
| Training Requirements: | * Class 5 Operators License, minimum * Competent to drive powered mobile equipment as assessed by the farm owner. * Hand Signals | |
| Communication Process: | When working out in the field alone, be sure to consult the “Working Alone Procedure”. For any communication regarding break-downs, further instructions, etc. contact the farm owner. | |
| Equipment & Supplies: | * Mobile equipment * Cables, chokers, and grapple * First Aid Kit * Fire Extinguisher * Cell Phone or Two-way radio | |
| Procedure/Practice:   1. Review operator’s manual and applicable standards to ensure equipment is handled, operated and maintained according to the manufacturer’s specifications and standards. 2. Ensure maintenance is meeting manufacturers schedules. 3. Ensure: 4. Equipment is operated by a competent person. 5. Gears and moving parts are properly guarded. 6. Any load is adequately secured. 7. There is a safe means of entry and exit. 8. Equipment must be equipped with the following:    1. An audible back-up alarm.    2. Manually operated horn.    3. Adequate front and rear lights.    4. Adequate braking system.    5. Adequate protection from any hazards.    6. Fire extinguisher. 9. If the powered mobile equipment is equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS) or an overhead protective structure, inspect these for cracks or loose welds. 10. When there is a seatbelt, it must be worn at all times the equipment is in motion. 11. No riders are allowed on any powered mobile equipment unless the equipment is specifically designed to carry them. 12. Equipment must be inspected before use, thoroughly annually, or more frequently as required by the manufacturer. 13. Ensure steps are clean and clear of brush, mud, ice, & snow. 14. Use 3-point contact when entering/exiting the machine. 15. Only operate controls while seated in the machine. 16. Do not override any of the safety systems such as a master disconnect switch, belt safety switch, brake switch. 17. If equipment is taken out of service:     1. Immediately remove from the work area.     2. Identify it as being taken out of service with Lock out/tag out process.     3. Deenergize hydraulics before performing service.     4. Store separately from working equipment. 18. A signaler is required to direct the safe movement of equipment when the operator has a restricted view or hazards exist in the workplace. A signaler must:     1. Be identifiable to the operator.     2. Use well agreed upon hand signals or communication system (two-way radio).     3. Warn operator if the load is in a hazardous position.     4. Ensure they can be seen at all times by the driver. If one signaler cannot be seen by the driver at all times, a second signaler is required.     5. If the signaler(s) are no longer in view, the equipment must stop. 19. All ground crew members are to wear high visibility clothing and maintain 10 meters of distance while the machine is in motion.   Operating Precautions:   1. Equipment must be inspected prior to use. Ensure to include the Grapple, Cable Drum, or swing boom to avoid dangerous quick release of load. 2. The operator of the equipment must not move equipment until all air and hydraulic pressure are fully built up. 3. When leaving equipment unattended:    1. Park it on level ground.    2. Set parking brake.    3. Lower grapple and/or cable drum on the ground.    4. Shut off engine.    5. Remove the keys. 4. Not carry hazardous products where the operator rides. 5. Ensure there are no loose articles presenting hazards where operator rides. 6. Stay within the limits of approach when the powered mobile equipment or anything attached to it could come within 1 meter of an overhead power line. 7. Mark power lines with signage on the ground that is large and highly visible. 8. Always operate powered mobile equipment at a slow speed. It is rarely necessary to travel more than 30 km/hour in tree lots. Do not endanger personnel through careless handling of the machine. Slow down for curves and during abnormal weather or operating conditions. 9. Follow the Refueling Procedure when refueling powered mobile equipment. 10. Do not use a cell/smart phone or text while driving powered mobile equipment. 11. Note the favorable and adverse degree of slope to which your particular skidder is safe to operate on based on ground/soil condition. Post this information or have it available in the cab of the machine. 12. Note the degree of slope in areas where the skidder needs to make a turn. Follow manufacturer’s guidelines. Post this information or have it available in the cab of the machine. 13. Check the limitations of operating a tracked or wheeled skidder. 14. Know the power of the skidder to the size of tree(s) it can drag. 15. Do not unhook a tight cable or choker. 16. Wear gloves when handling cables and chokers. 17. Do not straddle logs when setting cables or chokers. Stand to the side of the log. 18. Position the load with the grapple and cable drum to prevent swaying of the load, losing the load, and butting up against the skid plate. 19. Lift grapple or cable drum before moving to prevent it from getting snagged. 20. If cables or chokers get pinched or hung up do not release by hand use a winch or similar mechanical object. 21. Ensure workers outside of the skidder stay at a safe distance to prevent being hit by logs or cables if the cables get snagger on stumps or rock as and they break. 22. Keep the load relatively level while dragging the load. | | |
| EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: | | In case of emergency, contact 911 and the farm owner immediately. Remove yourself from harm’s way and ensure no one else is at risk. |