# Bobcat Snow Removal

Instructor Guide

Safety Talk Overview

Safety Talks are a method to refresh an employee’s knowledge and skills, maintain their interest in safety and illustrate the organization’s commitment to creating a healthy & safe work environment. Safety Talks can be performed on a weekly basis or before the start of a new scope of work and should be about 15 minutes in duration. Generally, these Safety Talk meetings are led by a supervisor and should be mandatory for all crew members to attend. The content should be centred on a single topic (e.g. a safety rule, safe job procedures, recent incident, Joint Health & Safety Committee (JHSC) meeting minutes, inspection results, etc.).

Topic Overview:

At helicopter and snowcat skiing companies in BC every year, a number of workers suffer injuries while using a bobcat to remove snow.

Demonstration and Discussion Topics

🞏 **Discuss** the safe work practices of operating a bobcat.

🞏 **Tour** the work area with workers pointing out where the accidents can occur.

🞏 **Distribute** the “Do’s & Don’ts” section of this handout.

🞏 **Use** the “Instructor Guide” section of the handout as your discussion guide

🞏 **Discuss** how accidents can happen.

🞏 **Remind** employees that they are required to wear adequate personal protective equipment.

🞏 **Explain** what can be done to minimize the risk of accidents (Do’s & Don’ts in handout)

🞏 **Emphasize** that following safe work procedures is mandatory.

🞏 **Make it real** by telling at least two true stories of injuries from your experience.

🞏 **Discuss** the attitude of “it won’t happen to me”. Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.

🞏 **Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.

🞏 **Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

🞏 **Document** the Safety Talk by completing the “Safety Talk Record” section and filing it.

Bobcat Snow Removal



SAFETY TALK RECORD

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Discussion Leader: | | | Date: | | | |
| Department: | | | Time: | | | |
| Attendees (Please print your name and sign beside it. If you are a contractor, also include your company name): | | | | | | |
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| Near Miss/Incidents and Investigations Reviewed: (None this month 🞏) | | | | | | |
| (Industry alerts can be discussed here as well) | | | | | | |
| Safety Topic Discussed: | | | | | | |
| Title: | | | | Date: | | |
| Any questions or concerns from workers? | | | | | | |
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| Action Needed: | Person responsible: | | | | Due Date: | Completed Date: |
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| Reviewed By: |  | | | |  |  |
| *Supervisor/Manager Print Name & Sign:* | | | | | *Date:* | |

# Bobcat Snow Removal

**Hazards:** MSI injuries – lower back strain, fatigue, muscle strain

**Equipment:** Bobcat

**Personal protective:** Ear & eye protection.

**Training required:** Employees must be properly trained on use of equipment prior to use.

**Legal requirements:** N/A

**Tasks**

The Bobcat is useful for moving large loads and for big demolition jobs. When using one, always wear a safety bar.

The ignition turns on with a key, similar to an automobile. Also like a car, the Bobcat has readouts for checking the fuel status and gives off warnings if the vehicle is overheating. It also has safety gauges that must be engaged before operating.

Two handles control the motion of the machine. Push both forward controls to move forward. Pull them back to go in reverse. To turn left, pull the left lever back, then the right forward. Do the opposite to go right.

There are two pedals inside the tool to move the bucket. Depress the left pedal to move the arms up and down. Push the right pedal forward to tip the bucket forward. Press the back of the right pedal to tip the bucket back.

When moving objects in the bucket, keep them as close to the ground as possible. Items do sometimes tip out of the bucket if not balanced properly.

The Bobcat comes with a tooth scoop for demolition, and a smooth scoop for moving loads of gravel or mulch. Attach forks to the Bobcat for lifting heavy objects.

do’s:

* Use personal protective equipment (PPE) as set out by the equipment manufacturer and by provincial legislation
* Use the safety treads and grab handles to mount and dismount machine. Maintain 3 points of contact at all times
* Use seatbelt
* Keep feet on pedals when operating machine
* Keep hands and feet in machine at all times
* Keep workers away from work area
* Carry loads and attachments as low as possible
* Use proper attachment for task
* Load, unload-and turn on level ground
* Keep work area level
* Ensure all workers are wearing high visibility apparel
* Go straight up and down slopes with heavy end of machine pointed uphill

don’ts:

* Do not operate machinery until you have been properly trained.
* Do not exceed rated capacity.
* Do not bypass or incapacitate any of the safety devices on the machine.
* Do not operate the machine blindly. If you cannot see the area where you have to travel, get a spotter to assist.
* Do not operate the equipment unless you have made eye contact with any other persons in the area.
* Do not use the operating controls for handholds or steps.
* Do not allow a person to position themselves under or near the bucket or frame while the skid steer loader is in operation.