

FACT SHEET

LOADING HAY ONTO A TRUCK WITH A TELEHANDLER



OVERVIEW OF TOPIC

Loading hay onto a truck using a telehandler is a common task undertaken on many farms. Anytime heavy machinery is used on farm, there are risks involved, so it is important all safety precautions are implemented to avoid an accident occurring. A telehandler is a versatile machine for agricultural work but its advantages can pose serious risks if not used correctly. Telehandlers can tip over or contact powerlines, and loads can slip off and attachments can come loose, all of which can lead to serious incidents.

OBJECTIVES

- 1 Learn how to safely load hay onto a truck using a telehandler
- 2 How to apply to your farm/actions to take forward

BEST PRACTICE DETAIL

There are many ways farmers can keep themselves and their workers safe while loading hay onto a truck with a telehandler.

- Ensure the telehandler is serviced and maintained regularly
- Ensure only competent and trained people are using the telehandler
- Adjust mirror when getting in the telehandler
- Confirm with the truck driver where they should be while the vehicle is being loaded, and at what point the load can start to be strapped down
- Confirm telehandler will stop work if pedestrians or truck driver enters the area where the telehandler is operating
- Check the area where the loading is to occur to ensure no overhead powerlines are present, the ground is flat and not slippery
- Ensure the operator understands the correct loading and stacking of the type of bales being loaded

- Ensure that the combined centre of gravity of the telehandler and the load always remains within the stability triangle
- Don't overload the telehandler
- Travel slow and low until reaching the truck
- Do not push too hard against the hay that is already loaded on the truck
- Don't stack hay beyond edges of the truck
- Consider the stability of the formed load

ACTIONS

There are actions you can take right now to ensure you are as safe as possible when next loading hay onto a truck with a telehandler.

- Train all necessary staff in usage of the telehandler, including the adequate ways to stack certain amounts of hay (check operator of telehandler has a high risk work license if required)
- Check that the telehandler's mirror is adjusted correctly
- Discuss with the truck driver where they should be while loading occurs and advise when strapping can commence and advise driver that loading will stop if this doesn't occur
- Advise workers to stay clear of area where telehandler is loading trucks

i KEY CONTACT

For further information please contact:

Making Our Farms Safer
Victorian Farmers Federation
mofs@vff.org.au