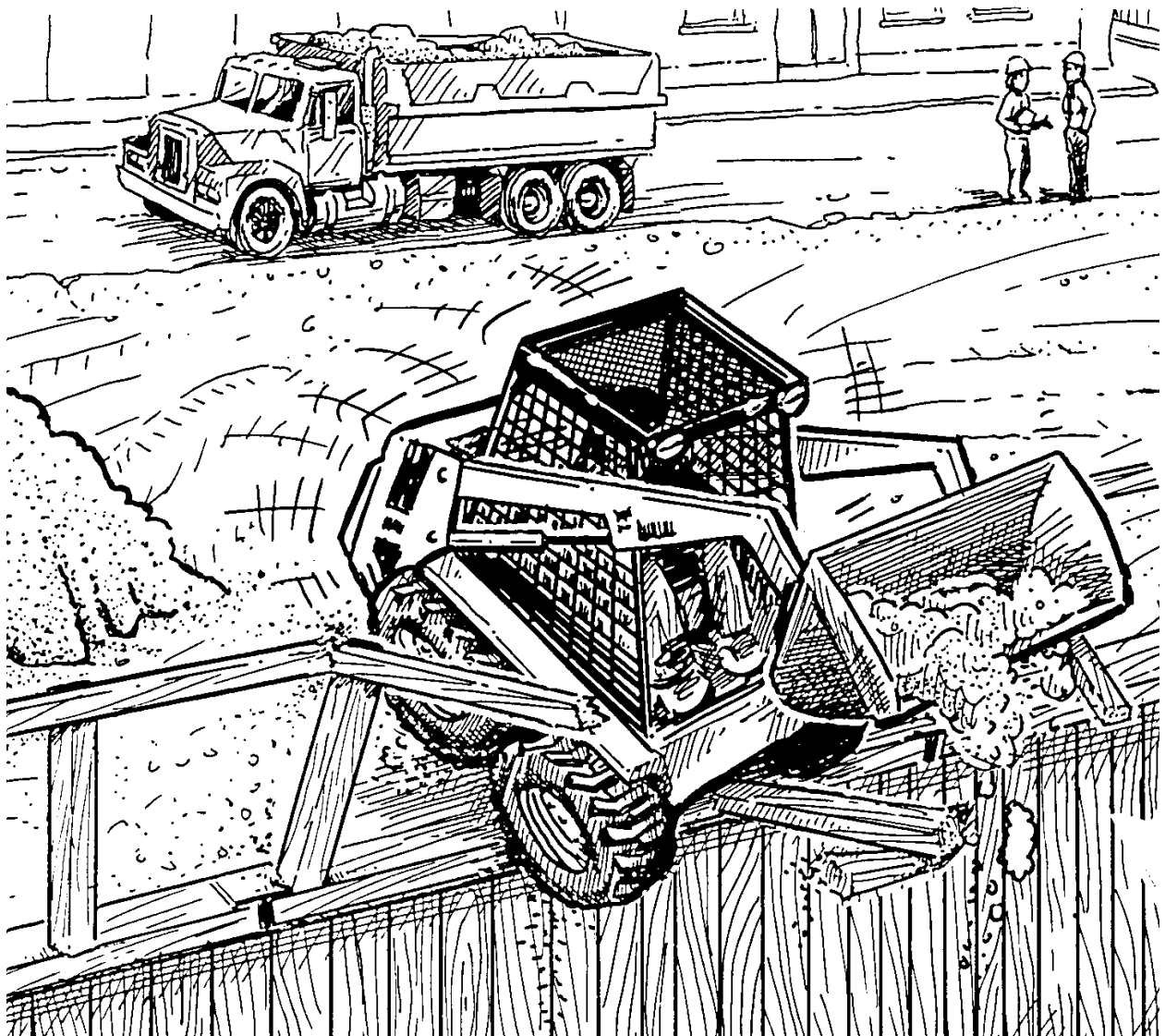


# Work **Safe!** Bulletin

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## SKID-STEER LOADERS



A worker was seriously injured when the skid-steer loader he was operating broke through a temporary wooden guardrail and dropped 8 metres (25 feet) into the bottom of an excavation.

The worker was in the process of dumping sand into the excavation from the top of the shoring. While raising the bucket of the loader over the top of a guardrail at the edge of the excavation, the loader became unstable and tipped forward on the front axle. This resulted in the loader breaking through the guardrail and falling into the excavation.

A loader of this type is very unstable when the bucket is raised. If the machine is required to stop quickly or make sudden movements then the operator may lose control. In this case, the loader was being operated near the edge of an excavation and the means of guarding was unsuitable to prevent the equipment from falling.

Operators must be made aware of the instability problems with skid-steer loaders. The bucket should be kept as low as possible to the ground when the equipment is moving. In addition, a suitable means of guarding an excavation such as this must be provided by installing a substantial stop block or other barrier at the edge of the excavation.

The employer has the responsibility to provide protection and to properly train workers in the correct operating procedures to be used with machinery such as this.