

# Agricultural Safety

## Tractor Safety

Tractor accidents are a leading cause of serious injury in agriculture. Not only can employees be injured, but the general public as well.

There is also the risk of loss not only to the tractor, but to buildings and other property as well. However, the risk of injury and property damage can be significantly reduced by following common sense safety procedures. What follows are checklists designed to address some of the most common operator and mechanical issues involved in tractor losses.

### The Do's and Don'ts of Tractor Safety

(All tractor operators should be trained on these best practices.)

#### Before the Tractor is Started

- Operators should dress properly and avoid flared pants, shirt tails and other loose clothing that can get caught on moving parts
- A tractor maintenance inspection should be performed before each use (see the list of maintenance warning signs at the end of this bulletin)
- Make sure the power takeoff shaft (PTO) is properly shielded
- Tractors should always be equipped with a roll-over protection structure (ROPS)
- Never alter or modify a ROPS
- Securely fasten the seat belt
- Keep hitches low and always on the drawbar and designated hitch points

- Keep all tractor attachment guards and shields in place
- Make sure Slow-Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblems are properly affixed and clear of debris
- Do not refuel inside buildings
- Do not refuel if the tractor is still hot
- No one should be allowed to operate a tractor without proper training
- Minors should be restricted in what tractor operations they perform – the more complex tasks should always be left to the adults to complete
- Anyone taking medication that can affect reaction time must be prohibited from operating a tractor

#### Tractor Operation

- Only start a tractor from the operator's seat – never start a tractor from the ground
- Never allow children or adults to ride as passengers on a tractor
- Keep bystanders a safe distance away
- Do not operate tractors within closed buildings, except for riding arenas requiring surface maintenance
- Avoid holes, depressions, ditches and embankments whenever possible
- When uneven ground cannot be avoided, reduce speed to lessen the chance of a side overturn

- Keep the tractor in gear when going downhill – this allows the tractor engine to act like a brake
- Keep off public roads whenever possible
- Never get off a moving tractor or leave it with the engine running
- When a tractor is stopped, always engage the brakes

### Maintenance Warning Signs

- Low tire pressure
- Loose wheel lug nuts
- Oil or hydraulic fluid on the ground underneath the tractor

- Low fluid levels
- Frayed or worn belts
- Corroded battery terminals
- Loose bolts
- Loose or damaged seat
- Loose or damaged ROPS
- Broken or inoperable lights
- Faded or damaged SMV emblems
- Organic debris (leaves, grass) in the engine compartment

### For More Information:



### RISK SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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