

MAFES Dawg Tracks



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Dangers of Bypass -Starting Equipment



At some time, we have all “jump started” or used bypass starting on cars, trucks, tractors, or other equipment. Farm equipment operators, especially tractor drivers, suffer serious injuries and sometimes death every year because they’re run over by a tractor they tried to start from the ground. This can happen to anyone, regardless of his or her level of experience. Each time we attempt a bypass start is like a game of “Russian Roulette.”

For example, a farmer with over 20 years of experience attempted to “jump-start” his tractor by using jumper cables connected directly to the starter versus the battery. The tractor started and was in gear. He was standing near the rear wheel of the driverless tractor and was seriously injured.

Safety Tips when Starting Equipment:

- Walk all the way around the area where the machine is and make sure that no one is in the way.
- Climb into the driver’s seat, sit down, and fasten the seatbelt (if is so equipped).
- Neutralize the hydraulic controls.
- Disengage the power take-off (PTO).
- Push in the fuel shut-off.
- Place the transmission in neutral or park, and depress the clutch and brake.

A Hypothetical Scenario That we should avoid:

It’s an early morning, probably too cold for a normal start to turn the engine over with booster cables. We may even think that it is easier to use a screwdriver to arc across the starter terminals for a warm-up, rather than to climb into the drivers seat.

If the tractor or piece of equipment is left in gear and the driver is standing between the front and rear wheels, the equipment may jump forward and run over the driver as the engine starts. On tractors with a “hydraulic clutch,” the clutch is not engaged until the engine starts and the hydraulic pressure builds up. If the tractor is left in gear, it will jump forward as the pressure builds and may run over someone on the ground. If this should happen, it is so fast that most people don’t have time to react.

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It only takes a few extra minutes to start the equipment the safe way - the driver’s seat, using the correct starting procedures.

DON’T BECOME A BYPASS STARTER STATISTIC!

EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Employer:

- Educate equipment operators on the dangers of bypass starting or “jump starting” and train all employees on prevention.
- Establish and enforce a policy of “No Bypass-Starting.”
- Use warning decals that are available from dealers. There are some available in kits that offer them to cover solenoid/starter motors, to prevent arcing across the terminals to remotely start the engine.

Employee:

- Only start and operate the types of equipment that you have been trained for.
- Always start the equipment from the driver’s seat, even if you have to spend a little extra time.
- Never bypass start or “jump-start” equipment from the ground.
- Always start the equipment with the parking brake on, and transmission in park or neutral.
- Look around the equipment before you start it up to see that there are no people or animals in the way.

Bypass starting probably isn’t so commonplace in our scheme of work, but with a little more time taken to start the proper way and with using a little judgment, we can avoid one ever happening.

**TIME RUNS OUT ON LUCK—
DO IT THE SAFE WAY!

ONLY FOOLS DON'T RESPECT THE SAFETY
RULES!!**