

MAFES Dawg Tracks



January 26, 2009 Riders on Farm & Lawn Equipment



Riders on any kind of power equipment are a safety hazard. This point has been driven home so many times that I'm sure you can remember it like John 3:16. Obviously, you know that there is a real danger associated with extra riders on farm equipment and lawnmowers. Even though you rarely see a second seat allotted for an extra rider, we see extra riders all the time on various farm vehicles. OSHA has given special permission in some cases for an extra rider on a vehicle during their training period.

How many times have you been driving down the road and see a mother or father out on a riding mower while holding a young child? Have you seen a tractor with a second rider propped up on the fender well or a person riding on the drawbar? There are so many distractions for the operator that can cause an accident resulting from blocking the driver's view or talking to him while he is driving. This doesn't take into consideration the possibility of the second rider falling off and getting run over and killed. Statistics show us that the majority of riders are young kids and they account for the largest number of fatalities. **Any extra rider for any reason is a safety hazard!**

Advance planning of work assignments, alternate forms of transportation to ferry an extra rider to the work area can eliminate

the opportunity of resorting to allowing a second rider for farm equipment. The thought of kids riding with adults on riding mowers can only be stopped by the adults themselves by becoming conscious of the hazards involved with holding kids on their legs or "laps" while mowing.

HINTS TO REMEMBER:

- *One seat-one rider is the rule always in effect on all farm equipment. (Special provision - sometimes a training seat is provided, but for training only.)*
- *There should never be a rider on lawn equipment.*
- *Do not let the riding lawn mower become your built-in "baby sitting" service. There are many accidents and injuries related back to children driving lawn mowing equipment.*
- *A short training or orientation period should be required for all new employees before they use any farm equipment or riding lawn mower equipment.*
- *If a situation arises where extra help is required, make arrangements for transportation, but not on the equipment.*

SPECIFIC POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FROM "EXTRA RIDERS":

- *Interferes with operator's vision and ability to control the levers on the equipment.*
- *Distracts the operator.*
- *Increase the rider's exposure to dust, noise, and chemicals.*
- *Increases the risk of a multiple injury incident*

**~BEFORE YOU START~
BE SAFETY SMART!
ONLY FOOLS BREAK THE
SAFETY
RULES!!**