



MAFES Dawg Tracks

January 7, 2013



Ten Commandments of Tractor Safety



Well, here we are about to start a new year, and with it lets pray that this one is better, safer, and more prosperous than 2012. Spring planting is “just around the corner,” so we thought that a “heads up” or a review of some rules regarding tractor and equipment use would be in order.

Did you know that between 1992 and 2009 9,003 farmers and farm workers died in work-related injuries? The leading cause of these deaths was tractor overturns, accounting for over 90 deaths annually. The most effective way to prevent tractor overturns is to have the use of Rollover Protective Structures. In 1959, only 59% of tractors in the USA were equipped with the ROPS. It has been proven that with tractor-equipped ROPS, 98% of these deaths can be saved.

- ✓ **Know your tractor, its implements and how they work:**
Read and get totally familiar with the manufacturer’s instruction manual.
- ✓ **Use ROPS and seatbelt whenever and wherever applicable:**
If your tractor has a foldable ROPS, fold it down only when it is absolute necessary, and then fold it up and lock it as soon as possible. Do not wear the seatbelt when the ROPS is folded. Take special notice of notes above relating to using ROPS. 98% or more deaths can be saved with the use of ROPS.
- ✓ **Be totally familiar with the terrain and work area - walk the area first to be sure and drive safely:**
Use special caution on slopes, slow down for all turns and stay off the highway whenever possible. Also be sure that bystanders and animals are clear of the area.

- ✓ **Never start an engine inside of any type of building:**
Exhaust gas contains carbon monoxide, which is colorless, odorless and deadly.
- ✓ **Always keep you PTO properly shielded:**
Make it a habit to always walk around the tractor and PTO driven implements. Do not ever cross over, through or between the tractor and the implement, especially if it is running. The PTO rotates with sufficient speed to dismember or even kill you.
- ✓ **Keep your hitches low and always on the drawbar:**
By failing to keep the hitches low and not on the drawbar, the tractor could flip backwards.
- ✓ **Never get off a moving tractor or leave it with the engine running:**
Shut the engine down before dismounting or leaving the seat. A runaway tractor can be extremely dangerous.
- ✓ **Never refuel with the engine or when it is hot:**
Also do not add coolant to the radiator while the engine is hot; hot coolant can erupt and scald.
- ✓ **Keep bystanders and animals away from the tractor and implements at all times:**
You should check and recheck to see that bystanders, animals and children (on family farms) are clear. An accident involving either of these entities will be in your mind forever. Double checking to be sure is time well spent to be safe and not sorry.
- ✓ **Never be in a hurry or take chances about anything relating to your tractor and the implements:**
Think safety first - then take your time and do it right.

GET SMART

USE SAFETY FROM THE START

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UNPREPARED = UNSAFE

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 Excerpts: www.kubota.com/safety
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