



MAFES Dawg Tracks

March 30, 2015



*Safety Tips: Agricultural
Vehicular Hazards*



In 2011, vehicular accidents caused approximately 1/2 half (276) of the 570 fatalities among agriculture workers. Injuries from vehicular incidents are serious and debilitating to farm activities. Actually there are several factors that influence the cause of these hazards. New and modern technology is a "Godsend" for the agriculture industry, but like most all activities of any kind, safety and training are an integral part of its successful use.

TRACTORS AND HARVESTERS-

Farm tractors, involved in fatal occupational injuries in agriculture, forestry and fishing resulted in 1,533 deaths from 2003 through 2011. Today this trend of tractor incidents continues to be the leading source of deaths and injuries on farms. The National Agriculture Tractor Safety Initiative is (NATSI) is providing research and available resources to aid in reducing this figure of deaths.

Rollovers – Tractor rollovers are the single deadliest type of injury on all the farms in the USA. In 2011, only 59% of farm tractors had rollover protective structures (ROPS). NIOSH has funded studies on tractor safety all over the USA to aid in protecting farmworkers and children. Following are some facts that their studies revealed:

- Overturns occurred at more than 3,000 operations in a 12 month period. 53% of the overturned tractors were equipped with ROPS.
- Nearly 1 in 10 farms surveyed had experienced a tractor overturn in the history of their farm. (This study was based on 6,000 randomly selected farms in Kentucky in 2002).
- Operator injuries from overturns without roll bars lost an average of 97.8 working day on farm work compared to workers with rollover bars and seatbelts. These workers lost an average of 21.7 working days.
- Tractor deaths don't tell the whole story, because for every person killed in a tractor incident, 4 people are non-fatally injured in tractor overturns.
- An OSHA act requires an approved ROPS on all agriculture tractors with more than 20 hp. engines that were manufactured after October 25, 1967 and which are operated by a hired farm worker.

Other Tractor and Harvester Hazards-

Farm tractors are involved in most farm fatalities and injuries.

Dangers exist from:

- ~Improperly hitching a tractor
- ~Using Skid Steer loaders incorrectly
- ~Clothing and hair entanglements from improperly guarded moving parts

Harvesting equipment is only used a few days each year, which is reason enough for operators to re-familiarize themselves with the proper operation, inspection and maintenance of the equipment.

The addition of harvesting equipment to tractors can change the balance of the vehicle, requiring the operator's constant attention. We should plan our harvesting so that the equipment is traveling downhill on steep slopes to avoid potential overturns. Space the tractor wheels as far apart as possible when working on uneven terrain.

GENERAL VEHICLE SAFETY-

Vehicle Operation-

- Do not allow passengers to ride in the vehicle, unless authorized by station management.
- Remove persons not involved in the activity from the site.
- Shut off vehicle for refueling.
- Park the vehicle whenever there is no driver inside, so that the:
 - Motor is shut off
 - Brakes are engaged
 - Transmission is in park-lock or is in gear
 - Keys are removed
 - Attachments are disengaged
 - All farm equipment traveling on any roadway should be equipped with an approved slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem, that is clean and in good condition.
 - Use a standardized system of hand signals when noise and/or distance doesn't allow for verbal communication.
 - Falling Object Protective structure should be used when there is a potential for falling debris.
 - Never tow a vehicle that is improperly hitched.

Vehicle Storage-

- Store away from structures housing livestock to reduce the likelihood of a fire.
- Do not store with fuel storage tanks.
- Ensure that electric power lines are high enough that the equipment can pass under them.
- Ensure that there is sufficient space for exiting.
- Ensure that the storage is lockable.
- Ensure that floor surfaces are smooth and clean.
- Remove all keys daily from the vehicles.
- Do not allow unauthorized people and children in the storage area.

POWER TAKE-OFF TIPS-

- Tractors and equipment should be inspected regularly and operators trained in their safe operation.
- All shields and guards should remain in place and replaced when needed.
- Workers should not wear loose clothing and keep their long hair tied back to avoid entanglements.
- Operators should always shut off the PTO when dismantled the equipment.

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Excerpts: <http://www.osha.gov>
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FAIL YOU
XXXX
SAFETY'S OUR GOAL <> What's Yours?**