

Tractor Safety



A farmer often knows his/her tractor better than anyone else and they should know how to be safe. So maybe this isn't for you, but a few reminders never hurt and could save a life.

WHAT ARE THE HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH TRACTORS?

PRE-OPERATION – TRACTORS HOLD POTENTIAL HAZARDS EVEN BEFORE ENTERING A FARM FIELD

- ▶ Caught in moving parts
- ▶ Falling from high places
- ▶ Electrocution or run over from by-pass starting

OPERATION - THE TRACTOR'S SIZE AND POWER HOLD LARGE POTENTIAL RISK WITH HUGE CONSEQUENCES

- ▶ Tractor run overs – especially hazardous when other people are close by
- ▶ Tractor rollovers – especially hazardous when operating a tractor without a ROPS
- ▶ Cut/crushed/pinched when shields are missing
- ▶ Crushed when attaching implements
- ▶ Non-operator (observer, extra rider) incidents

TRANSPORT – PUBLIC ROAD USE WHEN DRIVING FROM ONE FIELD TO THE NEXT

- ▶ Hit by other vehicles when lighting, SMVs, and reflective tapes are inadequate
- ▶ Collisions when driving recklessly or speeding by either tractor operator or other vehicles
- ▶ Rollovers due to speed or when too close to edge of road
- ▶ Crashes due to farm equipment taking up large amounts of road space
- ▶ Visibility caused incidents due to hills and curvy roads

For more information, go to: <http://www.ehs.iastate.edu/occupational/farms/tractor-tips>

Preventing Injuries While Operating a Tractor



TRACTOR HAZARDS AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

HAZARD and Injury Prevention Strategies

PRE-OPERATION

- ▶ **UNFAMILIAR SAFE TRACTOR OPERATIONS:** Read the tractor manual.
- ▶ **FALLING FROM TRACTOR:** Mount and dismount tractor using 3-point contact and facing the tractor. Wear non-slip shoes. Never dismount while tractor is moving.
- ▶ **BACK PROBLEMS:** Have seat with lumbar support and adjusted to yourself.
- ▶ **NOISE- HEARING ISSUES:** Wear hearing protection, especially on tractors without cabs.
- ▶ **POOR TRACTOR MAINTENANCE:** Preoperational check list to identify potentially unsafe situations.
- ▶ **ELECTRICAL JOLTS OR ELECTROCUTION:** Avoid by-pass starting.

OPERATION

- ▶ **RUN OVERS:** Check for others in vicinity before starting or moving, especially children who are quick and small.
- ▶ **ROLLOVERS:** Use a tractor with a ROPS. This won't prevent a rollover, but could prevent serious injuries if a rollover takes place. Always wear a seat belt when using a tractor with a ROPS. Add ballast to the tractor if necessary to add stability.
- ▶ **CAUGHT IN MOVING PARTS:** Ensure guarding and shields are secure and intact. Wear tight fitting garments.
- ▶ **BODY STRAIN:** Adjust tractor seat with lumbar support to your body. Dismount often and do some activity.

- ▶ **ATTACHING MACHINERY:** Don't enter between tractor and implement until stopped, in neutral, and brakes applied.
- ▶ **USING IMPLEMENTS:** Ensure all guards are in place. Never work on implements while in motion or the tractor is running.
- ▶ **TURNOVERS ON HILLS:** Reduce speed and apply brakes steadily, back up steep slopes when necessary. Descend slopes in low gear at a controlled speed.

TRANSPORT

- ▶ **LOSS OF CONTROL ON ROAD:** Drive slowly to retain control.
- ▶ **PULLED INTO DITCHES OR EMBANKMENTS:** Careful monitoring of landscape and environment.
- ▶ **HIT BY OTHER VEHICLES WHEN DRIVING ON HILLS:** Use an approved slow-moving-vehicle (SMV) emblem in good shape attached to back of tractor and/or implement along with reflective tape and working lights.
- ▶ **HIT BY OTHER VEHICLES WHEN SHARING PUBLIC ROADS:** Drive slowly and close to road edge without getting tire over edge. Use lights and signals. Travel at non-peak use hours.
- ▶ **HIT BY CAR WHEN TRACTOR IS TURNING:** Use lights and turn signals, especially when turning in front of traffic and making wide curves into fields.
- ▶ **HIT BY OTHER VEHICLES AT DUSK OR DAWN:** Transport farm vehicle at times other than dusk or dawn, use lights, have pilot cars accompany, especially if extra-large equipment is used.

Children move quickly, are often small, and hard to see from the tractor operator's seat. Make a rule about staying away from tractors when they are in operation. Allowing passengers on the tractor is a dangerous tradition. A No Rider rule can prevent heartache if the practice results in a death.