

P4.1 FARM SAFETY

■ WHO IS AT RISK AT A FARM

- Co-workers
- Visitors/Relatives
- Family members
- Subcontractors
- Farm animals and wildlife

■ EXAMPLES OF DANGERS AT A FARM

- Tractors
- Machinery and implements
- Livestock
- Electricity
- Chemicals
- Fires
- Ponds and open water bodies
- Sun exposure
- Material storage facilities
- Manure pits
- Motorbikes

1. TRACTOR HAZARDS

- Overturns
 - Accounts for over half of all tractor fatalities
 - Occurs when the tractor's center of gravity falls outside of its base of stability
 - Includes both side and rear rollovers
- Runover incidents
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- Highway accidents
- Falls
- Contact with other objects

HOW TO PREVENT TRACTOR OVERTURN INJURY

- Drive at appropriate speeds
- Lock brake pedals together when on highway
- Set wheel tread as wide as possible
- Stay away from steep slopes
- Don't drive on soft shoulders
- Keep front-end loader loads low to the ground

- Drive forward down hills and back up hills
- Equip tractor with rollover protection and wear seatbelt

MAJOR CAUSES OF RUNOVER ACCIDENTS

- Bypassing the ignition switch to start tractor
- Failure to set parking brake on slope
- Falling or jumping off of tractor
- Failure to acknowledge bystanders

TRACTOR FIRES

- Oil, grease, dirty rags, and trash on machinery can result in devastation.
- Be sure to grease and oil machinery on a regular basis.

PREVENTING RUNOVER ACCIDENTS

- Only start tractor while sitting in the seat
- Don't disable safety switches
- Place guard on starter terminals to prohibit bypassing
- Always set parking brake before dismounting
- Look for bystanders before starting tractor

MACHINERY SAFETY

- Don't wear loose clothing around moving parts
- Never reach over or work near rotating parts
- Turn off machinery before performing maintenance
- Never rely solely upon a machine's hydraulic system to keep equipment suspended
- Replace all missing and damage shields
- Never place yourself between a tractor and implements when hitching
- Never crawl under a machine or implement without first chocking or blocking
- Never allow anyone near a chain when it is under stress

2. CHEMICAL HAZARDS

- Pesticides/herbicides
- Anhydrous ammonia
- Water well contamination
- Fertilizers
- Animal medicines

3. FIRE HAZARDS

- Fueling and fuel storage
- Electrical problems
- Heaters
- Dry, dusty confinement areas
- Hay storage

- Machinery
- Welders and torches

USING A FIRE EXTINGUISHER - 4 Step process called PASS

- **P**ull the Pin
- **A**im at the base of the fire
- **S**queeze the trigger
- **S**weep from side to side

FUELING AND FUEL STORAGE

- Store fuel tanks at least 40 feet from buildings and barns
- Ground storage tanks in case of direct lightning strikes
- Never fuel a hot tractor or vehicle
- Post no-smoking signs that are clearly visible
- Erect barriers around tanks to prevent vehicles from running into them

4. ELECTRICITY HAZARDS

- Contact with overhead transmission lines
- Absence of proper grounding
- Overloaded circuits
- Damaged wiring
- Missing safety shields
- Center pivot irrigation systems
- Pond pumps

CONTACT WITH POWER LINES

- Many workers have been electrocuted when moving irrigation pipe (20 feet sections) and contact overhead power lines
- Workers also electrocuted when moving grain augers and when contacting power lines with front end loaders

EXTENSION CORDS

- Don't use extension cords in wet areas
- Don't try to repair them, replace them
- Don't use them to tie or secure objects
- Never run over cords with vehicles
- Unplug cords from outlets when not in use

5. OTHER HAZARDS/ DANGERS

- Motorbikes
 - Never carry extra riders on a motorbike not designed for passengers
 - Attend an motorbike rider safety course

- Know the limitation of the motorbike
- Always wear a helmet, long pants, gloves, and riding boots

- Ponds and open water (e.g. Irrigation canals; Uncapped wells)
 - Never swim in an irrigation canal or unfamiliar pond
 - Post no-swimming signs
 - Install a safety post with rope and flotation device at the edge of ponds

- Sun exposure (Heat)
 - Wear a wide-brimmed hat and long sleeve shirt
 - Wear sunscreen
 - Drink plenty of water
 - Perform difficult tasks in the morning or evening

- Animals and pests that bite, sting and cause diseases e.g. rash
 - Snakes
 - Spiders
 - Mosquitoes
 - Biting and stinging insects
 - bees, etc.

- **HOW TO ENSURE THAT SAFETY IS ACHIEVED**
 - Educate – train farm workers on labour safety
 - Spread the word on safe use (help people stay safe)
 - Look after every worker
 - Improve sustainability of agriculture
 - Put visible signs

TIPS FOR EMPLOYERS/FARMERS

- Train employees thoroughly
- Provide a safe place to work
- Provide reasonably safe tools and machinery
- Warn and instruct employee of dangers which they could not reasonably expect to discover
- Provide competent fellow employees
- Make reasonable rules for conduct