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 it’s base of stability
     - Includes both side and rear rollovers
   - Runover incidents
   - 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**

- Pull the Pin
- Aim at the base of the fire
- Squeeze the trigger
- Sweep 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