

Tractors are the primary source of work-related injuries on farms; nationally, nearly one-third of all farm work fatalities are tractor related. In Pennsylvania in 2012, 36 % of fatalities involved tractors.

However, not all of the injuries happen while the tractor is being used for work. Injuries occur for a variety of reasons and in a number of different ways.

Hazards can be grouped into four categories: 1) overturns, 2) runovers, 3) power take-off entanglements, and 4) older tractor technology.

By following the Top Ten Suggestions for Tractor Safety in this brochure the overwhelming majority of tractor-related injury and fatality incidents can be prevented.



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PENN STATE AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AND HEALTH

Top 10 Suggestions For Tractor Safety

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1

Match the operator to equipment:

- Consider person's size, experience, and decision-making ability in relation to the size and sophistication of the tractor and attached machinery.

2

One seat = One person:

- There is **NO** safe childcare location on a tractor.
- Extra riders compromise the operator's attention to detail, decision-making and full use of skills and knowledge.



3

Have a ROPS to provide a protected zone:

- Safest tractor: ROPS with enclosed cab
- Second safest tractor: 4-post ROPS
- Third safest tractor: 2-post ROPS
- No fourth safest

No ROPS = No protective zone

4

Stay in the protective zone:

Use the seat belt.



5

Keep up good maintenance:

- Brakes
- Signals
- Lights
- All other safety devices
- SMV
- Guards
- Hazard decals

6

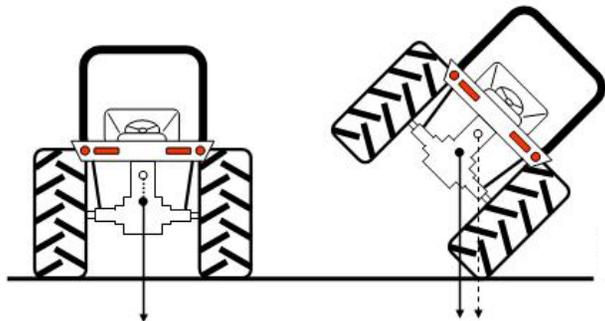
Avoid common injuries from slips, trips and falls. Use:

- handholds, steps, and three-point mounting / dismounting procedures

7

Avoid side rollovers:

- Understand the principles of center of gravity and centrifugal force.



8

Avoid rear overturns:

- Understand the principles of rear axle torque.
- Hitch only to the drawbar.

9

Keep PTO guards in place



10

Limit mixing tractors and vehicular roadway traffic:

- When possible, travel at off-peak times
- If you must be on the road, use:
 - * slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblem
 - * turn signals
 - * flashing lights
 - * escort vehicles
- When possible, pull off, let traffic pass.

(Understand that by motioning another driver around the tractor and equipment, you assume responsibility for their actions)