

Protecting Farmworkers from Tractor and Harvester Hazards

Tractor incidents are the leading cause of death and injury on farms. Farmworkers are especially at risk from rollovers, tipping and highway incidents.

Employers and supervisors should take steps to ensure a safe work environment by providing:

- Safe and adequately maintained equipment
- Proper supervision and training
- An Emergency Action Plan (i.e., each vehicle with a first-aid kit and fire extinguisher)

To Prevent Injuries, Train Workers to:

- Inspect farm vehicles for safety guards, seat belts and rollover protection structure (ROPS) before driving.
- Check that the Slow Moving Vehicle (SMV) emblem is clean, visible and not faded.
- Avoid traveling at night and during bad weather or low visibility.
- Watch traffic patterns, obey speed limits and avoid highways during busy travel times.
- Use the tractor's platform to enter and exit.
- Be aware of overhead power lines, people, and uneven ground.
- Carry passengers only when there is appropriate seating with seat belts.
- Take extra precautions when driving on steep slopes and downhill.
- Always shut down the tractor before climbing down.



Safe Work Practices

- On highways, farm vehicles should display flashing lights and reflectors, or consider escort vehicles.
- Provide workers with emergency phone numbers and the address of the closest hospital.

For more information:



U.S. Department of Labor



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