# TRACTOR SAFETY

Between 2001 – 2004, 35% of traumatic deaths on Australian farms were associated with plant and equipment. Two-thirds of these were tractor related. Tractor deaths and injury occurs from tractor runovers, rollovers and entanglement in power take-off shafts (PTOs). Design features for tractors, such as rollbars, neutral start switches and safe operator access have improved the situation, but injury events continue to occur.

#### **TRACTOR ROLLOVER**

Tractor rollover deaths have declined in the past decade, with more widespread retro-fitment of rollbars (ROPS) to second-hand tractors. However, not every tractor has a roll-bar and rollover deaths still account for around 30% of all tractor deaths.



- □ Fit a Roll Over Protection Structure (R.O.P.S.) to all tractors to help prevent injury to the operator in the event of a tractor roll-over
- □ Where tractors are fitted with front end loaders, fitting a falling object protective structure will prevent injury to the operator from falling loads, such as round hay bales
- $\Box$  Do not allow passengers to ride on tractors
- $\hfill\square$  Do not overload tractors. Check tractor User Manuals for correct tractor ballast

### **TRACTOR RUNOVER**

Tractor runovers are the leading cause of tractor-related deaths, responsible for around 40% of fatal tractor injuries. Older farmers are at greater risk of tractor runover. Incidents are often associated with maintenance, jump-starting, checking or operating implements and alighting moving tractors. Some runovers involve children.



- □ Keep tractor steps and handrails in good repair or replace old tractor steps with safer tractor access
- □ Fit steps which enable access outside the line of the rear wheel of the tractor. A diagram and free guide is available at www.farmsafe.org.au
- $\hfill\square$  Do not get on or off a moving tractor
- □ Do not jump start the tractor while standing on the ground or in front of the tyres
- □ Maintain the hand brake in good repair. Engage the handbrake or place the transmission in Park before getting on or off the tractor

# TRACTOR SAFETY

### **TRACTOR POWER TAKE OFF SHAFTS**

Tractor operators and bystanders are dying and being severely injured after being entangled in tractor and implement PTO shafts – on post hole diggers, slashers , feed mixers and chaffers.

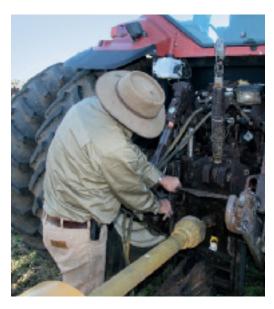
- □ Fit a guard to all machinery Power Take-Off (PTO) shafts
- □ Regularly check and replace old or worn PTO shaft guards
- □ Make sure that the tractor master guard and implement guards are fitted before operating any PTO powered machinery
- □ Keep all bystanders away from operating PTO powered machinery



#### **MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING**

Poor tractor maintenance and lack of safe tractor operator training contribute to tractor accidents.

- □ Always keep tractor brakes, lights and electrics well maintained
- Keep the engine free of rubbish. Clean the tractor regularly, especially during slashing or harvesting, to reduce the risk of fire
- □ Check and replace all guards after maintenance and before operating the tractor
- □ Ensure all tractor operators are trained in their safe operation
- $\hfill\square$  Only tow loads attached to the tractor drawbar.
- $\hfill\square$  Carry a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit on each tractor



For farm safety checklists and other information on farm safety risks and controls, go to **www.farmsafe.org.au** or contact:

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