

## Identifying Fatal Hazards on the Farm

An average of six workers are killed each year on farms and ranches in Oregon, and the worker fatality rate is greater in agriculture than other industries. The most common sources of fatal injury are operating a vehicle and working with machinery.

Following are safety recommendations from the Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET), Oregon Health/Science University:

### Tractors and Large Machinery

- Completely shut down the engine before exiting: gear in neutral, parking brake set, power off.
- Lower forks and attachments to the ground.
- Do not trust the stability of heavy mobile machinery on an incline.
- Block tires before working beneath a vehicle.
- Be sure the tractor has rollover protection and seatbelts.
- Drive slowly on uneven ground or when the road surface changes.
- Use extra caution on slopes; keep the load low to the ground.
- Do not allow children to play in grain bins loaded with wheat.

### Farm Trucks

- Do not drink alcohol during or before work – even small amounts impair judgement.
- Avoid driving while drowsy.
- When you drive near an abrupt edge, keep your eyes on the road. Stop if distracted even for an instant.
- Keep vehicles in good repair.

### Falls

- Three-point rule – get a firm grip with three of four limbs, especially in icy conditions.
- Beware of losing your balance from an unexpected release of a weight you are carrying or pulling, or from overreaching.
- Make sure ladders are in good condition and placed securely.
- Cover and guard holes securely.

### Augers and Drivelines

- Do not get near an auger or unguarded power take-off (PTO) driveline during operation.
- Repair or retrofit old equipment to shield any unguarded PTO drivelines.

### General Recommendations

- Train all workers in safe practices, and hold regular safety meetings where hazards can be reported and discussed.
- Establish an emergency plan for personnel who work alone.
- Post emergency phone numbers and first aid/safety information in the shop, and in each vehicle for easy reference in the event of an accident.

While these safety recommendations may seem obvious and repetitive, it is necessary to remind all workers on your farm or ranch to always remember:

***THINK SAFETY FIRST!***

## FARM ACCIDENT EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Always provide the dispatcher with your name and phone number:

This phone number is: \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE/POLICE/AMBULANCE 911

Poison Control Center \_\_\_\_\_

Electric Supply \_\_\_\_\_

after hours/emergency \_\_\_\_\_

### DIRECTIONS TO YOUR FARM

(Provide specific miles and mention visible landmarks)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT TO TELL THE DISPATCHER

1. The location of the accident scene
2. The telephone number from which the call is made
3. The nature of the accident (electrocution, entrapment, entanglement, rollover, etc.)
4. The number of victims
5. The condition of victim(s) (bleeding, heart attack, amputation, etc)
6. The type of aid that has been given to victim (CPR, bandaging, etc.)
7. Whether someone will meet EMS at the entrance to a remote location
8. Any special conditions that may hinder rescue (mud, fallen trees)
9. Other information as necessary

**DO NOT HANG UP THE PHONE UNTIL THE DISPATCHER TELLS YOU TO DO SO.**

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