

LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Farm Equipment Maintenance & Safety

It is estimated that 80,300 adult farm workers endure work-related injuries each year. That translates into 9.2 injuries every hour.

Keeping farm equipment in top working condition is very important. Having a breakdown can be costly in two important ways - the bill for replacing the broken part(s) and the time lost in the field. There are certain precautions a farmer can take before, during and after the season to keep equipment in optimum working condition, such as conducting a pre-season maintenance review or taking equipment to a local dealer for inspection.

Performing regular maintenance will not always prevent breakdowns in the field, but by following the suggestions listed below, you can make them less likely.

- Read the operator's manual.
- Conduct maintenance properly.
- Keep electrical connections dry and free of debris.
- Do not overestimate the operating capacity of your equipment.
- Replace worn parts before they become broken parts.
- Store equipment in appropriate shelters.
- Do not let an untrained person operate the equipment.
- Do not ignore warning signals that say something is wrong.
- Try not to operate machinery in less than optimal weather conditions, which can put a real strain on the equipment.

Complete maintenance in a safe manner. Remember the following:

- Avoid improper lifting.
- Keep all tools in good working condition.
- Take extra precaution when making hydraulic system repairs. Use paper or cardboard, not a hand, to find a leak.
- Use the right tool for the right job.
- Make sure all equipment is turned off and stabilized and that chocks are placed under the wheels to prevent rolling.

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FAMILY OF COMPANIES

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- Never climb under a vehicle or piece of equipment on a jack unless it is properly secured with blocks or jackstands.
- Pay extra attention to heavy or sharp objects. They are essential to farming operations but can cause serious bodily harm.
- Make sure all tools have proper safety shields.
- Keep the work area clean, and practice safe habits when working.
- Wear protective clothing and safety gear.
- Train family members and workers to have safe work habits.
- Educate novices helping with repairs and maintenance prior to their participation.
- Do not get in a hurry. Most accidents happen when people rush and do not think through what they are about to do.



No one wants to think about suffering a loss. In the unfortunate event you do have a loss, our **ANPAC Five Star Claim Servicesm** is designed to provide assurance and confidence to our policyholders throughout the claims process.

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