

LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Farm Machine Hazards

Fact: In 2008, 456 farmers or farm workers were killed in farm-related accidents. That's a fatality rate of 21.5 for every 100,000 workers.

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. Every day, it is estimated that 243 farmers or agriculture workers suffer an injury related to their work, with up to five percent of those injuries being permanent. Farm equipment poses one of the biggest risks, and while some farm machinery-related injuries occur because of machine malfunctions, others are often the result of human error. By recognizing certain hazard points when working with machinery, many accidents can be avoided.

Hazard Points

1. Pinch points come about when two objects move together and at least one of the objects moves in a circle.
2. Pull-in accidents occur when someone is using their hands to unclog a machine or feed a substance into the operating machine.
3. Wrap points are found wherever there is an unprotected, rotating shaft.
4. Shear points are a scissor-like motion found when two components move closely enough to each other to cut a soft material. Cutting points are the same motion, except with only one component moving at a rapid, forceful rate.
5. Objects can be propelled a great distance by farm equipment.
6. On many farm implements, free-wheeling parts can continue to rotate for up to two minutes after the power is turned off.
7. Crush points are found when an object moves towards a stationary object or two objects move towards each other.
8. Springs can expand or recoil with great force when released.
9. Burn points are found under extreme temperature conditions.
10. Hydraulic systems contain tremendous amounts of pressure that should be relieved before working with any part of the system.

Develop good safety habits when working with heavy machinery.

Precautions

- Never reach into any part of an operating machine.
- Disengage the power to the implement, turn off the tractor engine, take out the key and wait until all parts of the machine have stopped moving before you begin to do anything with the equipment.
- Keep all guards and shields in good condition and properly attached to the equipment.

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- When backing a tractor into position to attach to an implement, the assistant should always stand clear until the tractor is in the proper position.
- Any onlookers that are around machinery should stand back at a safe distance to avoid being struck by thrown objects.
- Read warnings labels on all farm machinery.
- Familiarize yourself with operating manuals prior to running the machine.

THINK before you act. Be aware of the danger of your farm equipment.



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