

LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN

Harvest Safety

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

Farming is one of the most dangerous industries in the United States. This is especially true during harvest season, which can be an extremely busy and stressful time of year. Serious injury or even death can occur if proper safety precautions are not taken.

Inspections

Prior to beginning the harvest, make sure all equipment you will be using is properly maintained and lubricated. This should include a thorough inspection of all safeguard equipment to ensure they are in place and functioning properly. Also take this time to evaluate your fire extinguishers and, if needed, have them serviced. Large harvesting equipment should have two or more fire extinguishers - one in the cab area and one in close proximity to the engine compartment. To help prevent the likelihood of fire, regularly clean areas prone to dust/debris collection. This can be done with a pressure washer, leaf blower or similar device.

If a problem arises during operation, stop the machine and turn it completely off prior to making any repairs or adjustments.

Moving Equipment

It is likely that you will, at some point, have to travel on public roadways during the harvesting season. This can lead to dangerous situations if proper care is not taken.

- Be very observant of traffic. Remember, your equipment will be moving at a much slower pace than most motor vehicles. If in doubt, wait for the vehicles to clear prior to pulling into the roadway.
- If traffic gets backed up behind you, find a safe place to pull off and let others pass.
- When driving on a highway, your machinery should be equipped with a 12-14 feet high pole with a red flag attached to the top.
- A slow moving vehicle (SMV) sign should be displayed at the rear of the machinery.
- Equip your machinery with white lights in the front and red lights in the rear. These lights should be capable of being seen from approximately 500 feet.
- Unless absolutely necessary, avoid moving equipment at night.
- If your machinery is not equipped with turn signals, make sure to use proper hand signals and allow enough time for motorists to react.

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Riders & Observers

It is important that people who are not assisting or not familiar with the equipment stay away from the immediate area. There should be no extra riders on the machines, as they could fall off, distract the driver, get caught in moving parts or be injured in some other way. As an operator, you should always be aware of those around you, especially small children who could be attracted to the commotion or run into your path.

Fatigue

Trying to get your crops out of the field will often turn into a race against the clock. Long, strenuous days are often required to ensure the job gets completed. No matter how strict the time crunch, it is important to always be alert, especially when operating machinery. Take the time for short breaks when needed, or find someone who is capable of relieving you when you are tired.

Equipment that is not properly inspected or in proper working condition, combined with long, stressful working hours, can create a dangerous situation. Fatigue will often turn into human error, which can result in injury or even death. Fortunately, by following a few simple precautions, you can help minimize the likelihood of this situation and keep you and those around you safe during the harvest season.



Help in Your Time of Need

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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