

Preventing Mud & Soft Ground-Related Machinery Accidents

Why It Matters:

Spring rains and freshly tilled fields can create dangerous conditions, leading to stuck machinery, rollovers, and worker injuries.

Key Safety Points:

- Avoid driving heavy equipment over wet, unstable ground—assess conditions before entering a field.
- Use low gear and steady throttle control when driving through muddy areas.
- Never try to pull out a stuck tractor alone, use proper tow straps and a second vehicle.
- Ensure all tires are properly inflated to improve traction.
- Walk fields ahead of time to identify hidden hazards like ditches, sinkholes, or debris.

Real-Life Risks:

- Many tractor rollovers happen when an operator tries to free stuck machinery without proper equipment.
- Workers have been injured while attempting to manually push vehicles out of the mud.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some problem areas on our farm that get too soft in spring?
- What's the safest way to free a stuck tractor?