

Safe Tractor & PTO Use: Roll-Over & Entanglement Risks

Why It Matters:

Tractors and power take-off (PTO) shafts are essential farm tools but also cause serious injuries if misused. Rollovers and entanglements are among the leading causes of farm fatalities.

Key Safety Points:

- Always use a Roll-Over Protective Structure (ROPS) and wear a seatbelt to prevent being thrown from the cab.
- Avoid steep slopes, ditches, and unstable ground that increase the risk of rollovers.
- When using a PTO, never wear loose clothing or jewelry that could get caught.
- Ensure all PTO shields and guards are in place before operation.
- Turn off the tractor before servicing or adjusting any PTO-driven equipment.

Real-Life Risks:

- Many deaths occur when operators don't wear seat belts on tractors with ROPS.
- Farmers have lost limbs after getting caught in unguarded PTO shafts.

Discussion Questions:

- What are the most common tractor rollover situations on your farm?
- How can we ensure PTO shields are always in place before use?