



SAFE FARMS



S.F. No. 15
January 2013

Operating Older and Vintage Tractors

Potential hazard

Operating older and vintage tractors poses risk to farm tractor operators, including risk of rear overturn while pulling loads uphill, in mud, or hitched above drawbar.

A lack of modern safety features and improperly maintained parts can also result in the following leading causes of injury and death for farm tractor operators: rollovers, run overs, falls, and operator contact with tractor attachments.

How to control the hazard

Before operating an older or vintage tractor, look for **missing, outdated or poorly working** safety features. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Roll Over Protective Structure (ROPS) and/or seatbelts
- Safety start system
- Levers and handles (may be unfamiliar)
- Arm or back rests on seats
- Adjustment and/or suspension of seats
- Power-take-off (PTO) master shield
- Platform
- Rear brakes, emergency brakes, brake pedals
- Lighting, signage, and/or reflectors
- Access and steps
- Decals and colour coding
- Front wheel turning speed versus steering wheel
- Starting systems and batteries (e.g. tractors that require a “jump-start”)
- Weight distribution
- Wheel base (may be narrow)
- Weight, horsepower and tractor design (may be incompatible with modern equipment)

Ensure:

- ROPS and seatbelts are properly designed, manufactured and installed.
- Tractors are evaluated for capabilities and compatibility for tasks performed.
- Hazards of operating tractors are assessed for each agricultural task.
- Accessory equipment is in good working order and is properly sized and counterweighted to the tractor.
- Maintenance and inspection checks are performed daily (e.g. brakes, emergency brakes, tires, guarding, steering mechanism, fluid levels and leaks, etc.).
- Platform meets standards for safe access and egress.
- PTO master shield is in place, and in good working order.
- Terrain has been inspected for slopes, obstacles or other materials.
- Safe work procedures are followed for the existing conditions during the operation of tractors and accessory equipment.
- Highway Traffic Act guidelines are followed.
- All workers and family members are trained to operate the tractor safely.
- Tractor is equipped with fire extinguisher and first aid kit.

(see over)

Workplace Safety and Health Contact Information:

Brandon: (204) 726-6361
Winnipeg: (204) 945-3446
Toll-Free: 1-866-888-8186 (Canada)
24-Hour Emergency Line: (204) 945-0581
Publications/resources available at: www.safemanitoba.com



How to control the hazard (cont.)

Prohibit:

- Riders/passengers on all tractors and accessory equipment.
- Children operating older and vintage tractors. Though children are often assigned lighter duties (e.g. cutting grass, hauling feed, stone picking, pulling wagons, transporting augers, etc.), the lack of safety features and deficiencies are especially hazardous for young, inexperienced operators.
- Ground-starting/jump-starting of tractors. Install a retro-fit shield which covers by-pass contacts to prevent by-pass starting.

Exercise caution:

- Towing or pulling heavy objects can result in a roll over or rear overturn. Hitch only to drawbar and tractor manufacturer recommended hitch points.
- Maintain a safe, controllable speed.
- Reduce overall speed during turns, crossing slopes, and on rough surfaces (e.g. rocks, stumps, holes, logs, old machinery, etc.).
- Consider possible risks of older and vintage tractors (e.g. wheel falling off, blowout, etc.).

Reference to legal requirements under workplace safety and health legislation:

- Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act, W210
- Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Regulation, M.R. 217/2006
 - Part 22: Powered Mobile Equipment

Additional workplace safety and health information available at: www.safemanitoba.com

- SAFE Farms Bulletin No. 14 – Safe Tractor Operation
- SAFE Farms Bulletin No. 6 – Safety Risk to Farm Tractor Operators: ROPS Certification

**This information is available in alternate formats upon request.
Ces renseignements sont offerts dans de multiples formats sur demande.**