



## SMO 11-0201

### TRACTOR SAFETY

*By SeaBright Insurance Loss Control*

The data from the Bureau of Labor statistics show us that tractors were the most common source of fatalities and overturns were the most common cause of death, for all work-related deaths in the agricultural production industry 2003-2007. Here is an example:

#### Man Dies in Tractor Overturn

2005 — A man was crushed when the tractor he was operating with a full load of rocks in the front-end loader overturned. The older tractor with a tricycle front axle was not equipped with a ROPS and did not have counterweights installed. With the bucket raised to nearly hood height, the operator drove it forward at a slight upward angle on an uneven slope causing the tractor to suddenly overturn.



#### Tractor Safety Tips

- All tractors should be equipped with a rollover protective structure (ROPS). Avoid use of tractors not equipped with ROPS.
- A seatbelt should always be used when operating a tractor equipped with ROPS.
- Avoid crossing slopes whenever possible and use appropriate speeds for operating conditions.
- Do not allow extra riders on tractors and other farm equipment; follow the “ONE SEAT-ONE RIDER” rule.
- Hitch only to the drawbar and hitch points that the manufacturer recommends.
- When transporting materials using a loader, keep bucket in lowered position.
- Lower hydraulic equipment to the ground when not in use; if the hydraulic lines lose pressure raised equipment can lower suddenly—crushing anything, or anyone, underneath.
- Slips and falls cause injuries. Use available handholds and the three-point rule when getting on or off the tractor. The three-point rule means having both feet and one hand, or one foot and both hands in contact with the step or ladder at all times.
- Know and follow medication labeling; some medications may impair judgment and/or ability to operate vehicles or machinery.
- Always start the tractor from the operator’s seat with the transmission and power takeoff in neutral and the parking brake engaged. You should never bypass-start a tractor.
- Ensure that tractors are properly shut down after each use.
- Training seats are designated for training purposes only.

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2010-137/> \*\*Fatality data were obtained with restricted access to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries. Calculations by NIOSH may differ from those published by BLS and views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of BLS.

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# SAFETY MEETING AGENDA



DEPARTMENT/JOB SITE: \_\_\_\_\_ MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Open Meeting & Present safety topic:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. Read minutes from previous meeting.
3. **Persons present:**

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4. **Old Business** – Status of previous recommendations. Discuss pending old business if any.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. **Accidents** – Discuss accidents and near misses that have occurred since the last meeting. Brief summary of accidents to date by number and type. Note any trends. Discuss corrective action taken, or needed. Concentrate on accident causes to make everyone more aware.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. **Inspection Reports** – Report on findings and recommendations of any inspection reports made since last meeting.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. **New Business** – Solicit employee suggestions. Discuss new procedures, changes to company safety policy, etc.

TIME MEETING STARTED: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME FINISHED: \_\_\_\_\_  
MEETING CHAIRED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_