

### Top three tractor injuries

Tractors present a great risk to operators and bystanders. Year on year they are the leading cause of death on Australian farms. Since 2009 there have been 109 on-farm fatalities that have resulted from tractors.

These fatalities can be avoidable if safety is at the forefront of every operator's mind.

We list the top three common tractor injuries and how you can implement best practices to make it home safely.

#### Tractor rollovers

There are two types of rollovers tractors are notorious for – sideways and back flipping. These types of rollovers tend to happen on raised surfaces and narrow roads due to gravity.

##### Safety Tips:

- Be cautious on different terrains and slopes.
- Know the limitation of your tractor and find alternative options for areas you can't navigate.
- Maintain proper speed.

#### Tractor run overs

Run overs tend to occur when bystanders get too close to the front or back of the machinery and the operator is unaware. The operator can also find themselves in harms way due to an unfortunate trip or fall.

##### Safety Tips:

- Install reversing cameras and alarms to notify nearby bystanders.
- Turn off the machinery if exiting the cab and moving the tractor.
- Ensure bystanders are clear from the area.



#### PTO entanglement

When Power Take-Off (PTO) shafts are unguarded, loose items such as clothing, hair and jewelry can become entangled in the PTO. Entanglement will result in either amputation, disability, injury or death.

##### Safety Tips:

- Never remove safety guards from the PTO shaft or take shortcuts.
- Turn off machinery if needing to access the PTO shaft.
- Ensure you're not wearing loose clothes or hanging jewellery.

Consider the impact a fatality or injury could have on those close around you. Think of your 'why' for working everyday and make a conscious effort to avoid incidents that you can control.



*64% of 2022 fatalities were attributed to farm vehicles or mobile farm machinery.*

[\*Safer Farms 2023 - Agricultural Injury and Fatality Trend Report\*](#)



## Five tips for tractor safety

Even with improved designs and modern equipment, we are still seeing tractor-related accidents in the news. Often, these accidents fall under the umbrella of common causes of injury that are linked back to unsafe conditions. As an operator you should know the hazards that your machinery can present.

Below are five tips for tractor safety and how you can reduce the risks on your farm.

### 1. Know your tractor

Get familiar with the Operator Manual and your Safe Work Procedures. Educate yourself on the layout of your cab including gauges, controls and indicators.

### 2. Complete proper training

All workers that use tractors on your property should receive the appropriate training and supervision. A worker who doesn't know how to safely operate a tractor can cause a potentially hazardous situation.

### 3. Take special care on rough terrain

Tractors are sensitive to any shift in their centre of gravity. Steep, rough, or slippery ground along with towing implements can increase the chance of the driver losing control and rolling over.

### 4. Reconsider passengers and keep children away during operation

While your passenger is at risk of unexpected bumps, tractor movements and the possibility of being tossed about or thrown out, they also pose a danger to the driver in the cab.

### 5. Driving on roadways

Before taking your tractor on a public roadway you should ensure:

- You have the correct license for your region
- Your vehicle meets any regulatory requirements
- You understand the road rules
- The machinery is appropriately prepared.

For further information on farm machinery safety, download Safe Ag Systems' [Free Farm Machinery Safety Resource](#).



**Contact AFIA | PO Box 527 Ascot Vale VIC 3032 | [info@afia.org.au](mailto:info@afia.org.au) | [www.afia.org.au/resources/#safety](http://www.afia.org.au/resources/#safety)**

Disclaimer: All information contained in this flyer is merely for informational and educational purposes. It has been verified to the best of our abilities, but it is not intended as a substitute for professional advice. Should you decide to act upon any information in this flyer, you do so at your own risk.

Produced: October 2023