

# Montana Ag Safety Program



## *Machinery Safety*

- Never operate any machine you have not been trained to use. Always receive proper instruction.
- Use all shields and guards. Retrofit all older equipment with shields and guards, when possible.
- Use appropriately rated chains, cables, or tow straps for pulling. Keep all bystanders away from the area when pulling; backlash can occur.
- Seatbelts should be worn, when equipped, and machine is outfitted with a ROPS.
- Never mount or dismount a machine while it is moving. Never jump off a machine. Maintain 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting.
- Read all operator's manuals; become familiar with the service requirements for each piece of equipment. Perform all scheduled maintenance at specified intervals.
- Conduct regular "walk-arounds".
  - Use all your senses – if something looks, sounds, feels, or smells wrong; take time to investigate the cause and resolve it as soon as possible.
- Disengage ALL power before working on or around the equipment. Ensure that rotating parts have come to a complete stop BEFORE approaching.
- Shut down machinery before fueling. Avoid fueling in areas where ignition may occur.
- Wear properly fitted clothing. Tie back long hair. Remove jewelry.
- Never operate at speeds too great for conditions, equipment capacity, or operator capability
- Tractors and other agricultural machines have a high center of gravity and can overturn easily. Avoid tight radius turns. Use extreme caution when turning on a slope, side hill, or rough/uneven ground. Start and stop slowly.
- Utilize ROPS (RollOver Protection System) and FOPS (Falling Object Protection System).
- Use equipment that is large and powerful enough to handle the task at hand, making sure equipment is properly ballasted for the load.
- Start and stop the machine ONLY from the seat of the machine.
- Set parking brake and lower all hydraulics before exiting the machine.
- Keep loader bucket/arms in a low position during travel.
- When loading and unloading a machine or implement:
  - Load only on level, stable ground.
  - Ensure truck and trailer cannot move by setting the brakes, blocking the wheels, or both.
  - Keep ramps clear of mud, grease, or debris. Ensure they are securely attached to the trailer.
  - Follow manufacturer recommendations for loading and unloading.
  - Load and unload with proper assistance. Never unload alone!
  - Secure machine or implement properly to the trailer before transport.
- Utilize pre-established hand signals for communication.

These safety rules have been written and provided to you for your safety. Your signature below indicates you have read and understand these rules, and further, that you accept the responsibility of always using good judgment to make workplace safety your number one priority.

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