

Montana Ag Safety Program



Harvesting Safety

Injuries are often caused by taking shortcuts while performing routine tasks, not getting adequate rest, and failing to follow established safety procedures.

- Dress appropriately. Comfort is important for long days in the field; wear well-fitting clothing and appropriate footwear. Use additional PPE as necessary.
- Familiarize yourself with all controls and safety features
- Read all operator's manuals; become familiar with the service requirements for each piece of equipment. Perform all schedule 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
- Keep all moving components greased to manufacturer's specifications
- Replace broken and worn parts
- Utilize all shields and guards
- Disengage ALL power before working on or around the equipment. Ensure that rotating parts have come to a complete stop BEFORE approaching
- Lock and block all hydraulics before working on or around
- Keep a charged fire extinguisher and basic first aid kit in each piece of equipment
- Never operate at speeds too great for conditions, equipment capacity, or operator capability
- Maintain three points of contact when mounting or dismounting machinery.
- Ensure communication is maintained between all operators.
- Check around each vehicle or piece of equipment before moving; look for kids, critters, and crew members.
- Be aware of field hazards: ruts, holes, stumps, wells, rocks, survey markers, dense weed stands, etc. can all cause significant damage. Field conditions can change rapidly.
- Be weather alert and fire aware!
- Stay hydrated and take time to nourish yourself – watch carefully for signs of heat related illness
 - Sudden onset of nausea, headache, dizziness, or confusion
 - Extreme elevation in body temperature
 - Lack of sweating and/or pale skin
- Be sure slow moving/oversized loads are appropriately marked and flaggers provided for, as necessary

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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