



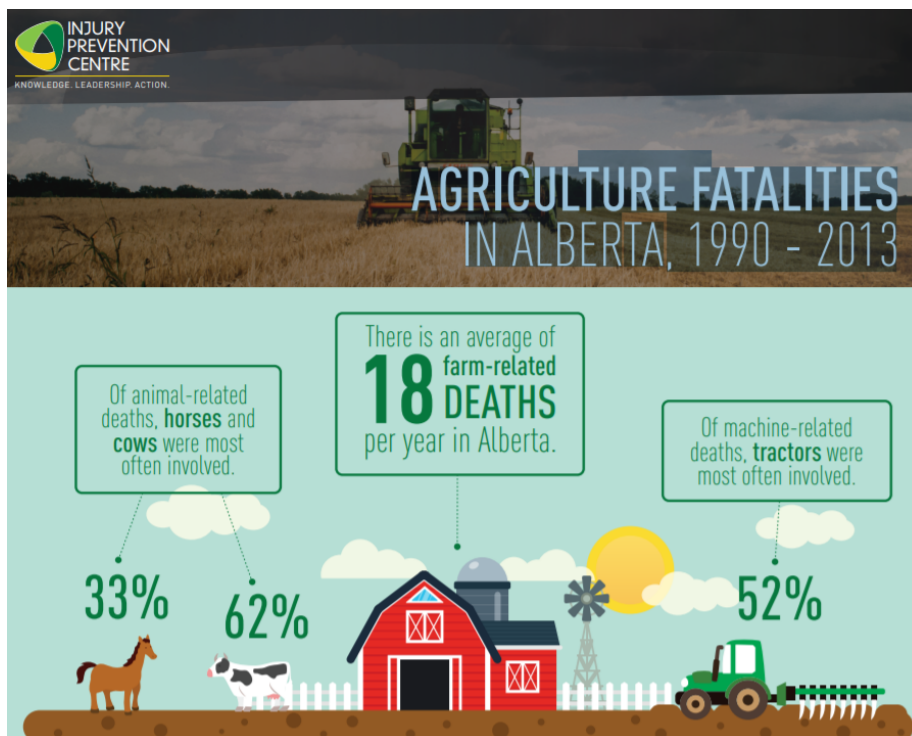
Toolbox Talk:

TRACTOR SAFETY

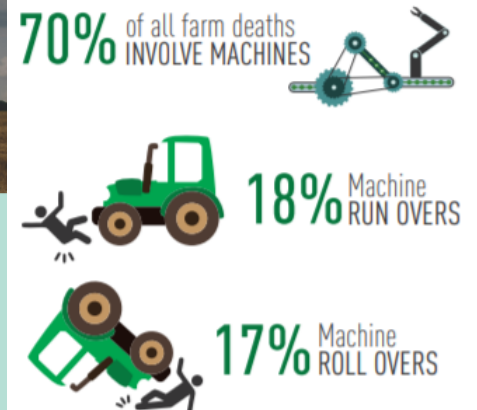
Runover and Rollover Prevention

Background

If you've been on the farm or ranch for any length of time, you're no stranger to the dangers that come along with tractors. The risk they pose cannot be understated. The Injury Prevention Center compiles data from numerous sources to publish farm safety statistics. Using data on agricultural fatalities in Alberta between 1990-2013, they published the following infographics:



ROLE OF MACHINES



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What do the statistics mean for you?

Statistics show us where our problems are and give us a chance to address them. If we know daily use of tractors is contributing to a high amount of fatalities in agricultural operations in Alberta, and we know the exact cause are runovers and rollovers, then we can take preventative action in these areas to reduce the likelihood of experiencing a tractor-related incident.

Runover and Rollover Prevention

Hazard Assessment

Any good prevention plan begins with a hazard assessment. Some farms and ranches will be required, under the OHS (Occupational Health and Safety) rules in Alberta, to perform a hazard assessment on tractor operation. All farms and ranches benefit from performing a hazard assessment, even if it isn't required. The hazard assessment process allows you to focus on the task (tractor operation) instead of the specific hazard (i.e. rollover/runover). Since many hazards are related, performing a hazard assessment on the task will allow you to address as many hazards as possible, furthering your opportunity to prevent the specific hazard you're concerned with; in this case, rollover/runover.

Here are just a few examples of some common hazards of tractor operation:

- ⇒ Contact with equipment (runover)
- ⇒ Other traffic, pedestrian or vehicle, and congestion
- ⇒ Sight lines/vision obstruction/windshield cracked or dirty
- ⇒ Mechanical failures or breakdowns
- ⇒ Unguarded objects or rotating parts
- ⇒ Children at play
- ⇒ Uneven work surfaces such as hills, ramps, or loading docks (rollover)

Look at things from every angle

When working through your hazard assessment, start by getting an idea of the day-to-day operation of your tractor. What is the typical path of travel? Who's authorized to operate the tractor? What type of work does the tractor perform and where? What are the typical weather conditions? Where is the tractor stored? Every tractor is different, as is every work task that you will perform with the tractor. Any of these conditions, alone or combined, may lead to a rollover or runover incident. It pays to look at things from every angle.

Consider who will be involved

When implementing safety measures to prevent tractor runover and rollover incidents, it's important to remember there are multiple people involved in each of these situations. Naturally, we think first about the operator. The operator is responsible for safe and effective operation of the tractor. This includes safe travel and safe hookup and use of any implements or attachments. While the operator has a very important role when it comes to safety, we must not forget about others who may be present:



The bystander — This may be the person giving signals to or helping the operator, a visitor to the farm or ranch, children playing in the area or other family members

The extra rider — This is the person who is hitching a ride on the tractor from point A to point B

Control Measures

Now that you have identified all the people who may be present, and all the work tasks the tractor will be used for, you can come up with ways to prevent tractor runovers and rollovers. The prevention plan will depend on the level of risk, type of tractor, and type of tasks being performed. Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- ⇒ Create a procedure based off your hazard assessment. Include information in the procedure for how you would like workers, operators and family members to work safely on or around the tractor. Some common controls you may use in your procedures are listed below. Notice how almost every control applies to tractor safety in a general sense, but many will prevent or mitigate a rollover or runover incident.
 - Perform a visual inspection prior to operating the tractor
 - Use three points of contact while mounting or dismounting
 - Never mount or dismount a tractor while it is moving
 - Always wear a seatbelt
 - Never allow extra riders unless the tractor is designed for them
 - Travel at a slow, safe speed, especially while turning, backing, or driving on a grade
 - Avoid turning if possible while travelling on a grade
 - If you cannot see, get a spotter
 - Always look in the direction of travel
 - Sound the horn before backing up
 - Designate areas as 'off-limits' to visitors or children
- ⇒ Train operators to an acceptable level of *competency*. Example: review any procedures, provide hands-on training, then ask the operator to demonstrate the task. (If you can document the training, even better!)
- ⇒ Conduct preventative maintenance on your tractor. We all know a little maintenance can go a long way. Set up a maintenance schedule for your tractor and stick to it. If you're stuck on what a maintenance schedule should look like, reach out to your dealer or the manufacturer.
- ⇒ And most importantly: **Talk about tractor safety, and your plans to prevent a rollover or runover, with all your workers and/or family members.** Every plan will look a little different, so be certain to share the specific details of yours!