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October 2020

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## Harvest Hazards



The end of harvest is in sight as farmers across the province start wrapping up #harvest20. These last few weeks can be tough as there's a push to get crops in before the weather turns.

With longer days and the added stress to finish combining, there are more risk factors to be aware of and to take into account this month.

**Fatigue:** In our industry, there are some times of the year when we're tired, run down or fatigued.

This is a by-product of working with living systems – livestock, crops, and yes, the weather. When we are tired, maintaining safety becomes more difficult. In fact, the level of risk for the fatigued worker is very high and is more likely to contribute to an incident.

This is why it's critical to have a plan to manage your fatigue before the busy season hits. Discuss your strategies with family and your workers to help them get ready. When things get busy, pause and review your strategies to make certain you and your farm workers are in the best condition possible.

### Make a plan

**Driving in the dark:** As our days get shorter and farmers are staying out later in the fields, there are more risks factors to be aware of and take into consideration. To ensure your own safety, as well as that of your family, staff and visitors, take an extra minute to assess your situation before moving at night. A few considerations:

- Perform a visual inspection prior to operating the tractor
- 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
- If you can't see, get a spotter
- Sound the horn before backing up
- Designate areas as 'off-limits' to visitors or children

**Working alone:** Be sure to assess and control the hazards and make sure you can complete the work that you're doing safely. Use the best tools and procedures possible and make sure you can get help quickly if needed. Remember, if you are miles away from help, there is delayed response time. Make sure that you have a charged cell phone or radio and check in frequently.

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## Road Safety

**Load securement:** Make sure that you properly secure any loads that you're hauling. Even small bales can cause a serious accident if they aren't properly secured.

**Moving farming equipment:** Make sure to adhere to the manufacturing guidelines of your vehicles if you're moving equipment. Having a towed piece of farm equipment blow a tire or become unstable at highway speeds is not good for the vehicle operator or anyone else on the road.

**Slow moving farm vehicles on higher speed roadways:** Moving equipment might mean having to travel down higher-speed roadways. Depending on the road, your combine or tractor might be hard to see until the last minute. Lighting, flags or pilot vehicles can help make sure that you are seen by everyone well in advance.

If you're going to be driving very slow, in a large vehicle or on a fast road, make yourself very visible or consider if it would be safer to transport some or all of the load on a trailer (i.e. headers).



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## Safety Minute







**Dylan Fulton**

September 16 at 10:42 AM · 🌐

For those of you who don't know, I was in an accident yesterday. My shirt was caught by the PTO of the tractor and it took me with it. Other than a sprained arm and a lot of cuts and burns on my body I am fine. If Gregg Fulton hadn't been there to grab me when it threw me to the other side I probably wouldn't be here. It ripped every stitch of clothes off of my body. Dad has some broken ribs but at least he still has a son. Count your blessings we are not promised tomorrow.

**\*\*UPDATE\*\***


**\*\*I had no idea this would go viral but maybe that was God's plan from the beginning. This is a story that everyone should learn from. I am blessed from your prayers and wishes of good health. If you feel like this is important to share then tell everyone. Let my mistake keep others from doing the same, and maybe we can save some lives.\*\***  
Also there was a guard on it if you look closely you can see it.

## PTO Points To Observe

- A PTO shaft can move at 540 rpm (9 times per second) or 1,000 rpm (16.7 times/second)
  - Inspect guards regularly for damage and wear
  - Replace even slightly cracked or damaged guards
  - Disengage the PTO before servicing, adjusting, cleaning or clearing blockages
  - Never wear loose clothing when operating machinery
  - Walk around the machine and never step over a rotating shaft... even if the guard is on!
  - Keep all components of a PTO system guarded
  - Use non-rotating guards with restraining devices where possible
  - Maintain guards as per manufacturer recommendation; clean and lubricate regularly
  - Avoid working alone around PTO-driven machinery
  - Use the correct driveline recommended for the machine being used
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# More can be done to improve farm safety, FCC survey shows

May 26, 2020

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A significant portion of Canadian farmers have had an incident resulting in an injury or close call on their operation, but these accidents don't necessarily change behaviour, according to a recent survey by Farm Credit Canada (FCC).

"It's unfortunate that it sometimes takes an incident or close call to motivate producers to put in place farm safety measures," said Marcel Hacault, executive director of the Canadian Agriculture Safety Association (CASA), a non-profit organization formed in 1993 to respond to health and safety issues in agriculture.

"It's even more unfortunate if they don't take action to prevent incidents from happening again," he said.

The survey, conducted from Feb. 10-21, found that seven in 10 producers (72 per cent) have had an incident resulting in an injury or close call on their operation at some point in their lifetime, and a quarter (24 per cent) of producers report having had one within the last year.

[Read the full article here](#)

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## We want to hear from you!

Every month, we will be including a survey question for our subscribers about ag safety!

October's question is:

*Have you had a close call on your farm? Tell us about it.*



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