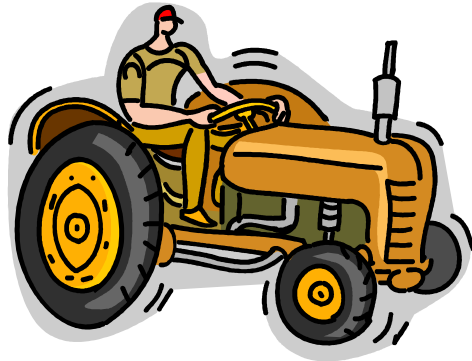


August Machine Safety



Power Lines:

- Watch for over head power lines when operating an elevator or loader.
- If you do snag a power line with any piece of equipment, try to back away. Remain in the cab until the equipment is freed.
- If you must exit, jump clear of the vehicle – make sure you never touch both the ground and the equipment at the same time.
- Read the operating manual before using any type of machinery.
- Locate and remove hazards from the working area if possible (i.e. large stones, stumps, irrigation pipes, ditches). If a hazard can not be removed, mark or flag it if possible.



- When operating machinery wear tight fitting clothes.
- Ensure all guards are in place on your machine.
- If an elevator begins to upend, do not try to stop it – get out of the way.
- Do not carry any riders!
- Do not operate any machinery if you are tired.

Tractors:

- Make sure you replace shields and guards on your tractor.
- Reduce speed when turning or crossing a slope. Adjust your speed to the conditions.
- Avoid fast breaking while pulling loads at high speeds.
- When pulling loads uphill, go slowly and avoid quick acceleration. Whenever possible add front-end weights.
- Do not attach anything above the drawbar. Use only the hitch points recommended by the manufacturer.
- Avoid steep slopes. When operation on a slope, drive down the slope forward, and if possible, proceed up the slope backwards.
- When operating on slopes, keep equipment on the uphill side, and always try to make downhill turns.
- Always disengage the PTO and shut off the tractor engine before leaving the driver's seat, no matter what the reason is.
- Always wear seatbelts if they are provided and your tractor is equipped with a roll over protection structure, do not wear the seat belt if there is no roll over protection.

Activities

Short Activities:

- Brainstorm with your club all of the safety features that come built in, that can be added onto a tractor or other piece of farming equipment.
 - For Example:
 - Manufacturer labels
 - Slow moving vehicle sign
 - Roll over protection structures
 - Seat belt
 - Operators manual
- Watch the safety contest video created by the Nechako Valley Dairy & Beef Club on Tractor and Implement Safety. This can be found on the BC 4-H webpage under the safety tab.



Longer Activity or Safety Camp:

- Invite a speaker to come in and discuss the importance of safety while operating farm machinery. Some ideas for speakers are: someone who has been in a farm accident, a safety officer from a company, or a FARSHA representative.



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