


# Tractor Safety

Tractor related injury, with run-over, rollover and entanglement in tractor power take-off shafts (PTOs) is as a major problem in farming. Design features for tractors, such as neutral start switches and safe operator access have been researched, and to some extent implemented, however injury events continue to occur. The proportion of on-farm tractor deaths reported for the period 1989-1992 is shown in the following table:

Mechanism	Working	Bystander	Total	%
Run-over by tractor	17	9	26	29.9
Rollover of tractor	38	10	48	55.2
Other	12	-	12	13.8
Mechanism Not Known	1	-	1	1.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>100.0</b>


## Tractor Rollover

Tractor rollover is the major cause of tractor related farm fatality, representing over 50% of tractor related fatalities. Fitting approved roll bars to tractors has significantly reduced these tractor related roll-over farm injuries.



- Fit a Roll -Over Protection Structure (ROPS) to all tractors to help prevent injury to the operator in the event of a tractor roll-over.
- Where tractors are fitted with front end loaders, fitting a falling object protective structure will prevent injury to the operator from falling loads, such as round hay bales.
- Do not allow passengers to ride on tractors.
- Do not overload tractors. Check tractor User Manuals for correct tractor ballast.

## Tractor Run over



- Keep tractor steps and handrails in good repair or replace old tractor steps with safer tractor access.
- Do not get on or off a moving tractor.
- Do not jump start the tractor while standing on the ground or in front of the tyres.
- Maintain the hand brake in good repair. Engage the handbrake or place the transmission in Park before getting on or off the tractor

## Tractor Power Take Off Shafts

Tractor operators and bystanders are dying and being severely injured after being entangled in tractor and implement PTO shafts on post hole diggers, slashers, feed mixers and chaffers.



- Fit a guard to all Power Take - Off (PTO) shafts.
- Regularly check and replace old or worn PTO shaft guards.
- Make sure that the tractor master guard and implement guards are fitted before operating any PTO powered machinery.
- Keep all bystanders away from PTO powered machinery.

## Maintenance and Training

Poor tractor maintenance and lack of safe tractor operator training has led to many tractor accidents.



- Always keep tractor brakes, lights and electrics well maintained.
- Keep the engine free of rubbish. Clean the tractor regularly, especially during slashing or harvesting, to reduce the risk of fire.
- Check and replace all guards after maintenance and before operating the tractor.
- Ensure all tractor operators are trained in their safe operation.
- Only tow loads attached to the tractor drawbar.
- Carry a fire extinguisher and a first aid kit on each tractor.

Farm Safety Checklists, Safety Guides and other farm safety information can be downloaded from Farmsafe Australia's website at [www.farmsafe.org.au](http://www.farmsafe.org.au).

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