

Poorly used or faulty vehicles and machinery are a major cause of death and serious injury on our farms.

Over the past 5 years, 10% of all fatal injuries in farming were as a result of contact with machinery.

Before starting the task STOP and think...

Are you authorised and familiar with the safe operation of the machine and the PTO between the tractor and machine?

Have you remembered to SAFE STOP if you need to check the equipment, carry out maintenance or clear blockages?
Fully apply the handbrake - put all controls in neutral - stop the engine - remove the key from the ignition

Are you using the right shaft and engine speed?

Have you carried out pre-start inspections?



CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Ensure PTO guards/shields and restraining chains are in place**
Never use PTO powered equipment that has missing or damaged guards or missing chains. Get them repaired or replaced and be aware that defective PTO shafts can disconnect from the machinery they are attached to. If so, they may swing and/or break off, striking anyone within range.
- ✓ **Have the sliding inner and outer surface of the guard and spring-loaded plunger of the quick release yoke been regularly cleaned and greased?**
- ✓ **Is the PTO guard the correct size and length for the shaft?**
Badly fitting guards can be as dangerous as no guard at all. Take into account the shafts vertical and lateral movements during work. The rotating shafts must be totally enclosed by the guard.
Always refer to the manufacturer's fitting, operating and maintenance instructions.
- ✓ **Ensure that other guards are in place and secured to prevent access to other dangerous parts of the machine, such as rotating shafts, chain and sprocket or belt and pulley drives.**

TOP TIPS:

- ✓ **Safe stop**
Handbrake on, controls in neutral, engine off and remove keys!
- ✓ **Plan your jobs beforehand.**
- ✓ **Never remove or modify guards to save time**
- ✓ **Only use a machine if you know how to use it safely and have received suitable training.**
- ✓ **Machines have no brains so use your own!**
A second of lost concentration can cost your life.



REMEMBER...

Ensure the PTO shaft and its guard is supported when it is not connected to the tractor. Do not rest PTO shafts and guards on draw bars and do not let them drop on the ground.

Never step across a rotating power shaft. Always walk around the machine.

Ensure close fitting clothing is worn. Remove scarves, jewellery, hooded strings and headphone wires. Tie long hair back or wear a cap.

Check that no one is in danger before engaging the PTO drive.

Keep children away from PTOs and all operational machinery.

Discuss the risks regularly with the whole team and train everyone in safe working method and emergency procedures.

Make sure operators are trained, machinery maintained, windows clean and mirrors intact.

Make sure everyone carries a mobile phone with them. Have relevant emergency information and contacts programmed in.