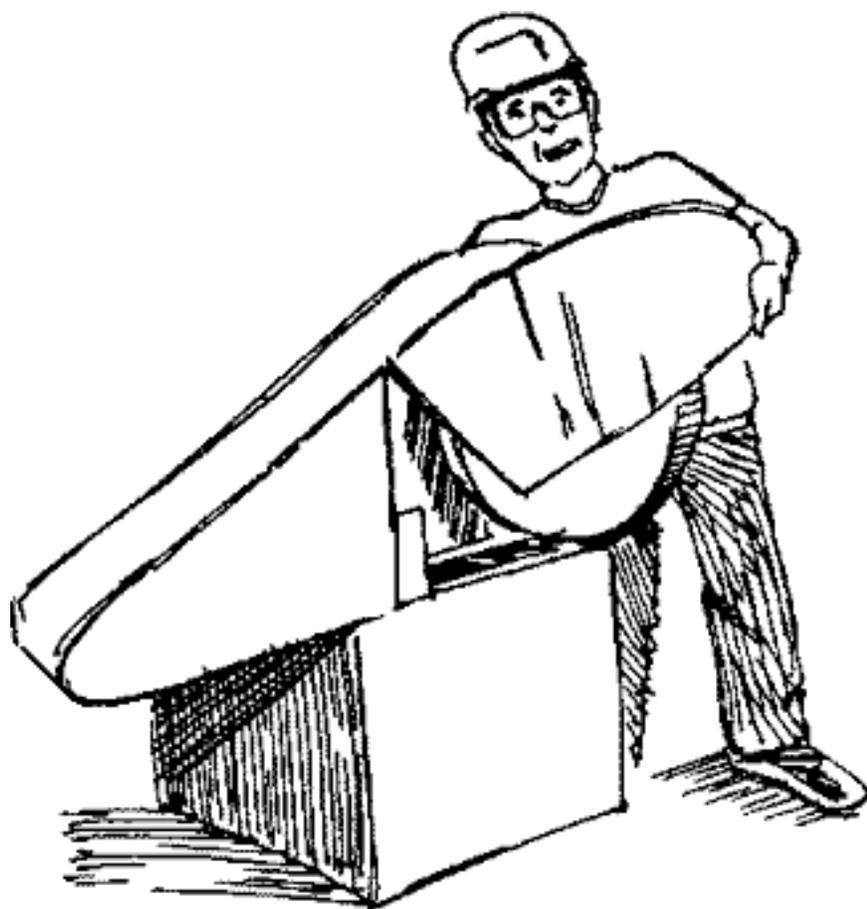


Agricultural Machinery Safety



Agricultural Machinery

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RESOURCES

The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) also offers several free Agriculture safety publications online at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/index.html>.

DWC features a free occupational safety and health audiovisual library. For more information, call 512-804-4620 or visit the DWC website at <http://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/safety/videoresources/avcatalog.html>.

Division of Workers' Compensation

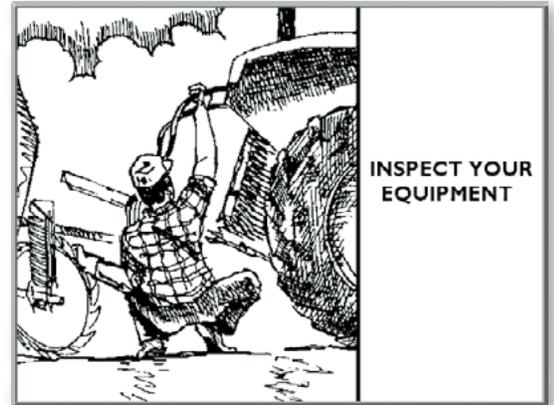
Resource Center • 512-804-4620 • resourcecenter@tdi.texas.gov

Safety Violations Hotline • 1-800-452-9595 • safetyhotline@tdi.texas.gov

INSPECT YOUR EQUIPMENT

After you have been trained on your employer's equipment, it is important to begin your operation with a safety inspection. This means that you need to thoroughly inspect all parts of the machine to be sure they are in good working condition. There are several steps you should perform before operating agricultural machinery.

- Inspect all safety guards, including chain guards and power take-off (PTO) guards. If any guards are missing or broken, notify your supervisor immediately so they can be replaced or repaired.
- Check all of the hydraulic lines and fuel lines to make sure they are securely fastened and in good condition. Notify your supervisor if you notice any leaks and bad connections so they can be repaired or replaced. Check hydraulic lines for pinhole leaks using cardboard only.
- Make certain that all stops and speeds are set correctly. During your equipment training, you learned how the parts of the machine respond once the power is turned on. This will help you to notice any unusual noise or movements.
- Check to make sure that the tension belts and chain drives are adjusted properly.
- Keep machine parts clean and free of accumulation of crop material, dirt or debris.
- Never operate any equipment that is not in safe working condition.



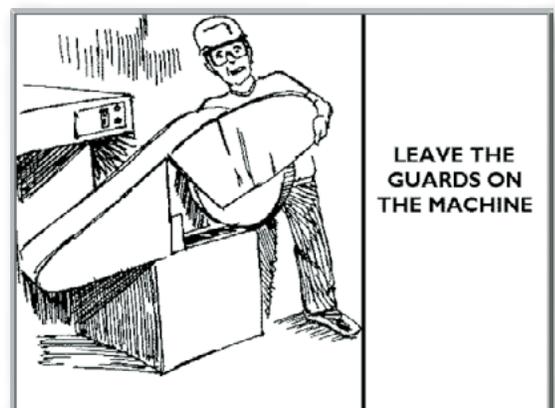
WEAR ONLY PROPER CLOTHING

No jewelry or loose-fitting clothing should be worn while operating agricultural machinery. Machines that have revolving parts can easily entangle jewelry and baggy clothes, pulling you into the machine very quickly. Make sure shirts that have buttons are buttoned together at the cuffs and shirt front, and clothing zippers are all zipped up. Make sure shirts tails are tucked into pant waist bands.



LEAVE THE GUARDS ON THE MACHINE

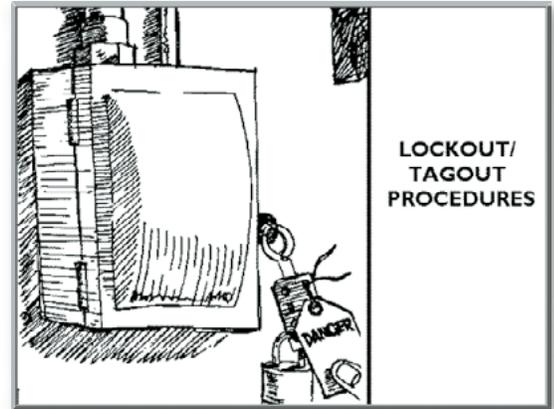
If it is necessary for you to remove a safety guard, first get permission from your supervisor and make sure the machine is locked out (see below). Replace the guards immediately when the adjustment or repair is completed.



USE LOCKOUT/TAGOUT PROCEDURES

If the machine you are working with jams or gets caught up on something before you attempt to make any adjustments, you must turn off the power and lock it in the "off" position. Follow your employer's lockout/tagout procedure immediately when you discover the machine to be malfunctioning. NEVER leave a machine running unattended. Never attempt to repair the machine yourself; instead, inform your supervisor immediately after locking it out.

A lockout procedure simply means to put a lock on the part of the machine that controls the power to prevent it from being turned back on. Or, remove the key and take it with you. To begin a lockout procedure, turn off the power to the machine and lock the switch, valve or tag with a lock and key that is only used for lockout purposes. It is VERY important that the machine is locked off and not just switched off. Many deaths and serious injuries occur each year when a machine is turned back on while another person is making the necessary repair. Use the lockout procedure whenever possible; only use the tag-out method when a lockout method is unavailable. A tag-out means using special tags that warn others of the danger of starting up the machine. A tag should have a printed warning of what could happen if the power to the machine is turned on, and must be tough enough so it can't be removed accidentally. Remember, tags alone do not prevent equipment from starting. They are only warnings. If you use a tag system, you need to be extra careful.



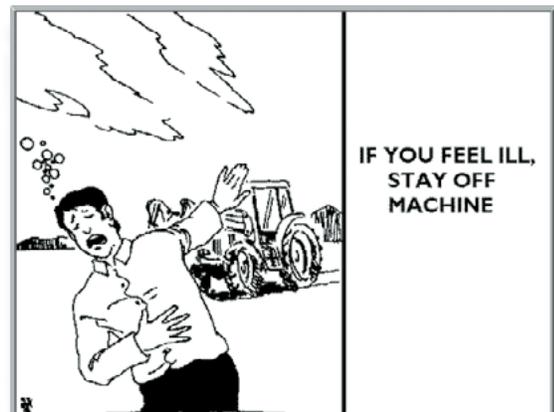
LOOK AROUND BEFORE STARTING THE EQUIPMENT

Adjust your seat so you can easily reach all controls and see all gauges and indicator lights. After you have completed the initial safety inspection and ensured that everyone is at a safe distance, you can turn on the power. Keep your mind on your work. Never bypass start any equipment. If the machine does not start the way it was designed, inform your supervisor.



IF YOU FEEL ILL, STAY OFF THE MACHINE

Do not operate any machine, large or small, if you are feeling sick. If you are not well, notify your supervisor. Illnesses and fevers can dampen your judgment and can create hazardous working conditions. It's just not worth the risk of injury.



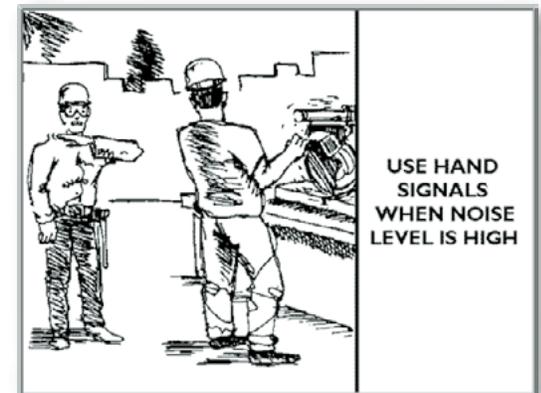
STAY CLEAR OF UNSHIELDED MOVING PARTS

Moving parts (such as snapping or husking rolls, straw spreaders and choppers, cutterbars, discs, and feed rolls) cannot be shielded to protect you and still operate correctly. For this reason, it is important that you concentrate on your work and watch your movements and clothing around machinery. Do not allow other people to go near unshielded moving parts, except when the machine is locked out and the person is a qualified person hired to make adjustments or repairs.



USE HAND SIGNALS WHEN NOISE LEVEL IS HIGH

If the noise level gets too high for you to be heard correctly when you speak loudly, use hand signals. Ask your supervisor about the hand signals that are used for your job. It is important for you to maintain constant communication with your fellow employees at all times.



USE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS

Keeping your work area and machine clean and free of clutter should become a habit for you. Keeping walkways clear of clutter helps prevent slips and falls and also reduces the risk of fires. All platforms and access ladders or steps should be kept free from grease, dirt or debris by washing them with soap and water regularly. If you must go to the top of the machine, clean your shoes or boots of any grease using soap and water before climbing, and use the handrail as you climb. When you are on top of the machine, watch your step to prevent falling off. Never jump down from the top of the machine. Instead, use the ladder or steps.



OTHER SAFETY TIPS

Most agricultural machines require your concentration in order for the process to run safely and efficiently. Do your best to avoid distractions from your work.

Do not permit riders on any moving equipment, such as tractors, forklifts, etc., even if it is for a short distance.

While moving the equipment, keep your eyes watching for bystanders who may not see you coming, and always travel at a safe, slow speed.

If your machine is heavy and very large, check out your path in advance for clearances, obstructions and ditches. Locate an alternate route if any are encountered. Drive with extra care if visibility is limited due to rain or fog, or if ground conditions are icy, wet or very dusty.

Always wear seat belts, even if the machinery is equipped with a roll-over protection system (ROPS). Seat belts prevent you from being thrown from an over-turning vehicle that could crush you from its weight.

