

Tractor Safety

Fall is harvest time in rural Nebraska. While harvest is a time to embrace the year's crop, it can bring many dangers. In the past year, Bryan Trauma provided life-saving care in over 40 farm-related injuries. **Tractor roll-overs are the deadliest type of farm accident.**

Safety Tips

- Most roll-over deaths and injuries can be prevented by using tractors with roll-over protective structures (ROPS) and by using a seat belt.
- Tractors without ROPS can be retrofitted. The National ROPS Rebate Program will help finance.
- Start and operate the tractor while seated in operator's seat.
- Keep hands, feet and clothing away from rotating machine parts.
- Be familiar with your terrain and work area. Use special caution on slopes. Slow down for all turns. Stay off the highway, if possible.
- Limit distractions and take no short cuts.
- Ensure slow moving vehicle signs are properly installed.

Resources

- National ROPS rebate program: <https://www.ropsr4u.org/>
- General farm safety video: <https://nfu.org/farmsafety/#chapter1>
- Roadway safety/agricultural vehicle lighting and marking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtrmNCqHOow>
- Tractor safety course: <https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/dawson/tractor-safety-training/>
- For more information on farm safety and resources, contact the Central States Center for Agricultural Safety and Health: Ellen Duysen at ellen.duysen@unmc.edu or Dr. Aaron Yoder at aaron.yoder@unmc.edu.

Brought to you by the Bryan Trauma Center
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