



ROPS: An Investment You Can Live With

The High Plains Intermountain Center for Agricultural Health and Safety

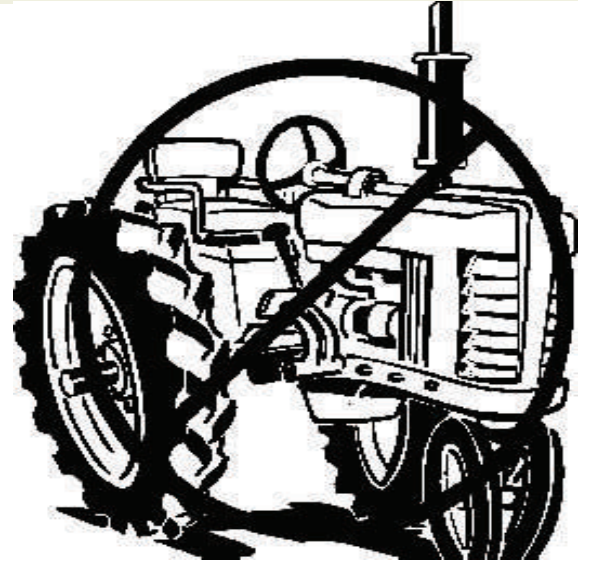
DO IT NOW

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT:

November 1990: A 26-year-old Colorado farm worker is killed when the tractor he was driving went off a road embankment and rolled, crushing him.

August 1992: A 50-year-old female farmer dies when the tractor she was using to mow road side weeds rolled down an incline and landed on top of her.

July 1993: 82-year-old Colorado farmer tries to back across a ditch, and his tractor went into a side roll down an embankment.



September 1993: Two Wyoming men died in separate tractor rollover incidents.

92-year-old farmer is killed in a tractor rollover while attempting to drain ditches using a rear mounted ditching tool.

71-year-old rancher was mowing a horse pasture when his tractor tire went into a hole on the ditch bank. When the tractor rolled into the ditch, it trapped the rancher face down in a creek and drowned him.

Every case involved an older model tractor, without rollover protection.

Tractor operation accounted for at least 33 agricultural fatalities in Colorado and Wyoming from 1990 through 1996. Rollovers were responsible for half of these fatalities. All of these rollovers might have been prevented had the tractors been equipped with Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) and seat belts worn.

In 1995 over half of the on-the-farm tractor fatalities in the United States are tractor rollovers as reported by the National Safety Council. Terrain or operator experiences make no difference to who have become victims. The 16 farmers and ranchers killed in tractor rollovers in Colorado and Wyoming (1990-1996) ranged in age from 20 to 92 years of age.

Keeping the tractor from rolling over and protecting the operator in case of a rollover are the two ways to prevent death and serious injury. The specific guidance for each tractor can be found in the tractor's operating manual. Learning how to safely operate the tractor in all types of terrain and understanding the proper setup and balance of the tractor is vitally important. Protecting the operator in case of a rollover requires a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) and a properly installed and fastened seat belt. Seat belts are necessary to keep the operator within the ROPS safety zone in case of a rollover.



Retrofitting your tractor with a ROPS could be the most important thing you do. The National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield, Wisconsin has published *A Guide To Tractor Rollover Protective Structures*. This publication contains information on suppliers of ROPS retrofits. It lists tractor models and the ROPS models that are available for them. In many cases, it also gives a suggested price. To obtain a copy of this publication for \$5.50, please contact the National Farm Medicine Center at (715) 387-9298. HICAHS has a copy of this publication and would be glad to share it with everyone desiring to add a ROPS and seat belt to a tractor. Please call HICAHS at 1-800-622-8673 for more information

and names of ROPS suppliers in your area.

The complex forces which act upon a ROPS during a tractor rollover makes it essential that a ROPS be properly designed, manufactured, and installed. Do not attempt to fabricate a ROPS in the farm shop.

This Fact Sheet was made possible through the cooperation of Bill Hetzler of the Nebraska Fatality and Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) program at the Nebraska Department of Labor, Omaha, Nebraska. (402) 595-2960. The FACE projects in Colorado and Wyoming also contributed to this project.

Further Reading:

A Guide to Agricultural Tractor Rollover Protective Structures. (1997). Marshfield, WI: National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield Clinic.

<http://www.marshfieldclinic.org/nfmc>

For Further Information Contact:

HICAHS

Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences

133 Environmental Health Building

Colorado State University

Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1681

(970) 491-6152

FAX: (970) 491-2940



