



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY  
EXPERIMENT STATION

# MAFES DAWG TRACKS

Falls from tractors or other farm equipment can lead to serious injury and death. **Prevent falls** from machinery by adopting these basic practices:

- Wear shoes or boots with slip-resistant soles.
- Keep platforms, foot plates and steps clear of mud, manure and other debris.
- Remove tools, drink bottles or other items that may cause a tripping hazard from the cab floor and platform.
- Insist that no one ride on farm equipment except those required for equipment operation, instruction or diagnostics.
- Never allow anyone to ride on the drawbar or towed machinery.
- Persons should not be allowed to ride in the bucket of loaders, on tongues between truck/tractor and the implement, or on any implement being towed. In the instance when a rider on an implement such as a hay wagon is necessary, extra precautions should be taken to avoid any injury to this person.
- Reduce speed on rough, uneven or hilly ground.
- Watch for obstacles.
- Wait for the tractor to stop before getting off. Set brakes and step-down using handholds or rails.
- Never jump off moving equipment.

## **Dress appropriately.**

- An untied shoelace, flowing long hair and stray threads from an old shirt have, in the past, led to horrendous injuries when operating farm equipment. Dressing appropriately can mean reducing risk of such injuries.

For more info contact:  
**Leslie Woolington**  
MAFES/MSU-ES Risk Mgmt.  
[LHW4@msstate.edu](mailto:LHW4@msstate.edu)  
662-325-3204

## **Maintenance precautions.**

- If a piece of equipment becomes clogged or jammed, never attempt to clean out the blockage until the machine is shut off and all moving parts come to a complete stop.
- Whenever preparing to work on a piece of equipment, wheels need to be blocked to prevent movement. Any jacks used should be stable and in good condition, along with jack stands.
- Hydraulic and air lines should be inspected for wear and cracks. Any indication of damage to these lines should be immediate grounds for replacement of the line. Caution should be taken when working on hydraulic systems. Make sure all pressure in the system is relieved and that the fluid is cool before loosening any fittings or removing lines. Wear leather or rubber gloves.

**To prevent rear-end collision** and potentially save a life while moving equipment along public ways:

- Always keep your slow-moving-vehicle (SMV) clean, visible and properly mounted.
- Ensure that all flashers work properly & lenses are clean and not broken.
- Broken, worn or discolored emblems should be replaced.
- Have a truck follow, with their flashers on also, and be in communication with each other. Operators do not have good rear visibility on large equipment.
- Pull over at a wide, safe location to let other vehicles pass on by, if the line behind you gets long.

## **Sources:**

<https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com>  
<https://www.ruralmutual.com>  
<http://nasdonline.org>