

Ten General Ag Equipment Safety Guidelines

Agriculture uses a diverse array of tools and equipment. As with all tools and equipment careful operation and following appropriate safety tips helps to manage risks and minimize the chances of personal injury. While the details for safe operation vary, there are some general guidelines that have broad application.

- 1) Be Alert. Watch what you're doing. Be aware of what is going on around you. Anticipate potential consequences of planned action and/or current conditions.
- 2) Make sure there is adequate distance between you and any observers.
- 3) Be prepared for emergencies. Have access to first aid kits, phone numbers, and emergency contact personnel.
- 4) Keep equipment and tools in good operating condition. Poor maintenance increases the likelihood of equipment damage and personal injury.
- 5) Know and follow recommended operating practices. Know the critical risk points for the equipment you're using so they can be avoided.
- 6) Make sure all safety shielding and devices are in place and working properly.
- 7) Wear the appropriate clothing and protective gear such as long pants, protective shoes with good traction, eye protection, hearing protection, gloves. Clothing and hair should not be loose or hang down to avoid entanglement.
- 8) If it moves, is elevated, or hot maintain adequate clearance. Once contact is made you will usually be cut, pinched, entangled, crushed, or burnt before you can react!
- 9) Maintain control of your footing and your equipment. Poor balance and equipment control is asking for trouble.
- 10) During transport make sure the load is firmly anchored and won't slide or roll. Don't overload the transport equipment.