

Farm Vehicle Safety

Tragically, the most common causes of serious and fatal injuries in agriculture involve moving and overturning vehicles.

Here are some tips & reminders about operating farm vehicles that we hope you find useful...



On the farm – check that:

- ▶ **Visiting drivers are aware of routes around farm**, and that vehicles and pedestrians are separated wherever possible.
- ▶ **Routes are well maintained** and that any warning and speed limits signs are clear.
- ▶ **Work on slopes is planned**, drivers know to always turn uphill when working across a slope and descend straight down the gentlest gradient. The **rear wheel grip** of a tractor will lessen as the load of a rear mounted machine is emptied.
- ▶ **Work with a telehandler is planned**, drivers know the **safe working load**, to drive with the boom and load as low as possible, to use suitable attachments for the job, and to **check for overhead power lines** on the route. Telehandlers carrying loads should face uphill, and when no load is carried face downhill.



Vehicles – check that:

- ▶ **Faults and damage are repaired**, vehicles and trailers are **properly maintained**, with special attention paid to braking systems, and **all keys are kept secure** when they are not in use.
- ▶ **Mirrors, cameras, and other vision aids** are in good working condition and positioned correctly for use, and lights are functional especially in winter months when visibility is reduced.
- ▶ Drivers are protected from **falling objects**, that loads are secure and stable, and that trailers have **adequate brakes** for the loads and speeds that they operate at.
- ▶ Any vehicles with people riding on them are fitted with **roll-over protection structures (ROPS)** and seatbelts if there is a risk of overturn.
- ▶ Telehandlers and any other lifting equipment are **inspected regularly** by a competent person.



Drivers – check that:

- ▶ Anyone driving farm vehicles are **medically fit to drive**, **properly trained** and **know how to enter and exit vehicles safely**, and that anyone operating a telehandler has had **specific training**.
- ▶ Anyone driving farm vehicles knows to **check behind them** for people and animals before starting to reverse.
- ▶ All drivers know to **wear seatbelts** where fitted, and to remain in the cab of a vehicle if it overturns. Most deaths and serious injuries involve those who try to jump or are thrown from a cab during overturning.
- ▶ All drivers know **not to carry passengers** on vehicles or in cabs unless they are sitting on a passenger seat in a safe position and wearing a seatbelt if fitted.
- ▶ All drivers know **not to carry passengers on quad bikes** – the long seat is for active riding on different slope conditions.
- ▶ Drivers have **access to helmets** when operating quad bikes. Most quad bike fatalities are caused by head injuries.
- ▶ All drivers know **not to lift people up in grain buckets, on pallets or other makeshift platforms** to carry out work at height. Fatalities have occurred when attachments have been used as work platforms.

REMEMBER!
SAFE STOP
HANDBRAKE ON
CONTROLS ON NEUTRAL
ENGINE OFF & REMOVE THE KEY

