



TOOLBOX TALK: ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURES

Rollover protective structures can help protect operators

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KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF ROLLOVER PROTECTION STRUCTURES

Tractor rollovers account for a majority of tractor related fatalities in the United States. Distracted operators, speed, and rough or uneven ground are leading causes of tractor or lawnmower rollover. Rollover protective structures (ROPS) can help to protect operators from being crushed or pinned by equipment during equipment rollover. ROPS became available for tractors in the mid-1960s; however, they were not standard equipment on new tractors until 1985. Many manufacturers offer retrofit kits to install ROPS for older machinery and tractors.

Seat belts should be used on all equipment with ROPS. Seatbelts ensure that the operator stays within the “zone of protection” offered by the ROPS during a tractor mishap. Seatbelts should not be used on tractors or mowers without ROPS. Rollover protective structures do not prevent rollovers but can be very effective in preventing death or serious injury when properly installed and used along with the seatbelt. There are two types of rollover protective structures: rollover protective frames, and rollover protective enclosures.

ROLLOVER PROTECTIVE FRAME

These are either two or four post frames which are securely mounted to the main body of the tractor. Some rollover frames are permanent, while others can be locked in the upright position when in use and then folded in the down position during transport or to avoid overhead obstructions. The operator should not use the seatbelt while the ROPS is folded down.

ROLLOVER PROTECTIVE ENCLOSURE

A rollover protective enclosure (sometimes called a cab) utilizes the protective frame but completely encloses the frame with metal and glass. Seat belts are provided and must be used to contain the operator within the protected area. In addition, this cab enclosure gives protection from weather, dust, noise, and vibration.

WAYS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF A ROLLOVER

- Set wheels as far apart as possible
- Lock the brake pedals together before high-speed road travel
- Match speed to operating conditions and loads
- Keep front-end loader buckets as low as possible when moving
- Do not mow or operate machinery on wet grass as tires may lose traction
- Use engine braking when going downhill
- If possible, operate on slopes going up and down
- Do not operate machinery on a slope that exceeds the angle limits specified by the manufacturer for that equipment. Use machinery designated for steep slopes
- Only use a drawbar, and other manufacturer recommended hitch points for attaching trailers
- Routinely provide training on safe use of equipment used to complete tasks
- Stay as far as possible from drop-offs, ditches, embankments, or bodies of water
- Slow down before turning and change speed gradually

REMEMBER: Seat belts must be used with the ROPS to keep the operator within the protected area.

I understand the information presented and the importance of rollover protective structures.

COMPANY: _____

DATE: _____

EMPLOYEE NAME:

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE:

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