

BOOROWA DEVELOPMENTS PTY LTD

TRACTOR/LOADER SAFETY TIPS



5383 Lachlan Valley Way
Phone: 02 6385 3618
Fax: 02 6385 3887
boorowadevelopments@gmail.com
LICENCE MD 20797

Index

Table of Contents	2
Introduction	3
Before You Start	3
Don't Use It Unless	3
Children, Pets and Other People	3
Start Up	3
Dress Code	3
Drugs, Alcohol and Sleepiness	3
Hitching Equipment 3PL	3
Hydraulic Hoses	4
Rollover	4
Towing	4
Fire	4
Noise	4
Front Loaders/Telehandlers	5
Slashers	5
Before You Get Off	5
Maintenance Safety	5
Further Reading	5

Introduction

Tractors/loaders are essential farm equipment. Sadly, until the 4-wheel quad bike took over, they are also responsible for the greatest number of farm deaths.

Please read this and the manuals carefully. It isn't enough to make you safe but it is a start. If you are a new tractor owner/user, there is even more reason to get some training in tractor safety from an experienced operator or enrol in a course.

Before You Start

Don't Use It Unless:

- You have read and understood the manual
- The tractor/machine is fit to use
- All guards are in place
- It is in good working order
- ROPS/seat belt

Children, pets and other people: Are they out of the way? It's not just your safety that is required.

Start Up:

- Check oil, water and tyres
- Start the tractor **ONLY** from seat
- No passengers on tractor/implement

Dress Code:

- Don't wear anything that may catch in rotating parts of the machine
- Wear boots, not thongs

Drugs, Alcohol and Sleepiness:

- Do not operate machinery whilst you are under the influence of drugs, alcohol or if you are tired

Hitching Equipment - 3PL

- Don't stand between the tractor and equipment – crush injury

- Don't put your fingers between link arms and equipment – crush injury
- Ensure tractor is off and guards are in place before attaching

Hydraulic Hoses

- Very hot oil under very high pressure – depressurize before connecting or disconnecting
- Don't look for hydraulic leaks with your fingers
- Wear eye protection

Rollover

- No ROPS/belt – don't use it
- Slopes, holes and rocks are a real risk for sideways rollovers
- Don't drive across slopes
- Watch out for rocks and holes that could tip your tractor
- Reverse up steeper slopes

Backflip can happen in less than a second.

- Don't tow other than with tow bar - Back axle
- Let out the clutch gently when towing or going up hills

Towing

- Knowing the safe towing weight
- Maintain the brakes
- Go down hill using the engine as a compression brake
- A tractor isn't a truck – limit your speed!

Fire

Sparks and hot machinery start fires. In hot/dry conditions, it may not be safe to operate machinery. If you have to:

1. Do it early in the morning
2. Have fire-fighting equipment on site
3. Be sensible

Noise

Tractors are noisy and can cause permanent deafness. Know the recommended safe noise exposure times for your noise level.

Front Loaders/Telehandlers

- Higher risk of rollover
- Don't move with the loader arm extended
- Don't get in a position where material can fall on top of you
- Be aware of power lines – even a 1m clearance can be fatal

Slashers

- Don't put your fingers/feet under the machine
- There is a projectile risk from the machine
- Keep others away when operating

Before You Get Off

- Apply the hand brake
- Make sure the loader and 3PL are down
- Stop the motor
- Have the gear box in neutral
- Make sure you are not on a slope (rollaway)
- Don't leave keys in the machine (kids may start it)

Maintenance Safety

- Don't remove radiator cap until cool
- Stop motor for any servicing
- Jack up on wide base jack on firm ground
- Deflate tyres before removing
- Be aware of split rims which are particularly dangerous