



MAFES Dawg Tracks

September 24, 2012



Safety Tips: Safe Transportation

Harvest season is here, and with it we'll be seeing more tractors with wagons attached and other harvest equipment moving over the roads. Accidents can occur if the operators aren't focusing in on the "business at hand." **Reminders** to truck drivers and harvest equipment operators as a "**HEADS UP**" to **stay alert** and **watch out** for the other drivers and operators would be time well spent as another safety curtain that could save an accident.

Following are some tips that can assist you in re-orienting these folks on the foils of driving, using caution as they are moving to other fields, grain elevators or cotton gins:

SAFE DRIVING SAVES LIVES-

- ✓ Safety should always be your main concern, whether you are driving or riding to work or from one field to another.
- ✓ Serious accidents often occur when drivers make poor decisions, such as driving too fast or turning too quickly.
- ✓ Passengers also face serious injuries - or even death - if certain precautions aren't taken.
- ✓ Accidents caused by unsafe driving can result in high medical costs, legal action, and a major loss of income.
- ✓ We prohibit unsafe driving by any worker, and require passengers who ride in any of our vehicles to follow certain safety rules.

SAFETY RULES FOR DRIVERS-

- ✓ All drivers and passengers must use seat belts. If all seat belts are in use, passengers must be told to take another vehicle.
- ✓ Never fill a vehicle over capacity. If you are unsure how many passengers are allowed in a vehicle, check with your supervisor.
- ✓ Make sure you are carrying your driver's license. Don't drive if your license is expired or has been suspended.
- ✓ Always obey speed limits, including any speed limit signs we have posted on our property. Watch your speed, and don't take sharp turns or curves too fast.
- ✓ Do not tailgate over vehicles. Keep a safe distance.
- ✓ Use your turn signals when changing lanes and when making any other turns.

- ✓ When driving from field to field, always drive safely as if you were on a normal road. Don't speed, drive too close to ditches (or the edge of steep embankments) and watch for trees, large potholes, and other obstacles.
- ✓ Turn on the headlights at night and in poor weather conditions.

SAFETY RULES FOR PASSENGERS-

- Always use your seat belt. If no seat belts are available, ride in a different vehicle.
- Never stand up in the bed of a pickup truck or sit on the rails. You may fall out and seriously injure yourself if the vehicle hits a bump or has to make a sudden stop.
- Do not hang on the sides of a vehicle while it is in motion. You could be injured or killed. Always keep your hands, arms, legs, and head inside the vehicle.
- Do not engage in horseplay or other activities that may distract the drive and cause an accident.
- If you are carrying tools in the vehicle, make sure they are in a secure location where they won't fly out and hit others.

OTHER SAFE DRIVING TIPS-

- Don't drive if you are overtired, ill, or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Avoid driving if you are angry about something that happened at work or home. Angry drivers can easily lose their concentration and cause accidents.
- See to it that all instruments and working parts on the vehicle are in good working condition.
- Make sure that the vehicle is equipped with a first aid kit and an emergency repair kit. If either is missing, report it to your supervisor.
- If you see a passenger standing up in a pickup truck bed or breaking any other rules, inform him that he is doing so. If it continues, report it to the supervisor.
- Drive defensively. Watch out for other drivers, animals, people and other vehicles or other objects that could cause an accident.

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WORK SAFELY – OR – HURT GREATLY!

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**FORGET THE HEARSE
WITH
SAFETY FIRST!!**