



MAFES Dawg Tracks

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Safety Tips: Know the Dangers of a PTO

What is a power takeoff?

- An important part of a tractor is the power takeoff or PTO.
- The PTO provides a means of transmitting power between a tractor and another piece of farm machinery. A few examples of PTO-driven equipment are hay balers, rotary cutters, weed mowers, forage blowers and irrigation pumps.

Why are PTOs dangerous?

- ✓ PTO shafts turn at very high speeds: 540 or 1,000 revolutions per minute when they are at normal operating speed.
- ✓ Most PTO accidents happen when folks get too close to the rotating shaft, especially if guarding has been removed or is damaged.
- ✓ Hair, loose clothing, jewelry, pant legs, loose shirt sleeves, drawstrings from "Hoodies" or jackets can get caught on the shaft and wrap around it.
- ✓ The chances of these happening increases if the shaft has manure, dried mud or nicks in the shield.
- ✓ Your hair or clothing could also get caught in the U-joints or other fastening devices and wrap you around the PTO shaft.
- ✓ Once your hair or clothing gets caught on a PTO shaft, it is nearly impossible to get loose. The more you try to pull away, the tighter the wrap becomes.
- ✓ Within fractions of a second, your hair or clothing may be torn off or your body may wrap around the spinning shaft.

Safety Devices That Will Help-

- PTO shields cover the shaft to help protect you from entanglement.
- Check the shaft to be sure that all parts of the PTO and the equipment that you are using has all the shields intact.
- Don't assume that that a guard or shield will automatically prevent an accident. Shields may be missing or partially covering the PTO driveline.
- If you detect a missing part of the PTO shield or the U-joint guard, report it to your supervisor immediately. Do not operate the machinery without proper guarding and shielding. We see this in some of our stations - going ahead and using equipment - disregarding the fact that the PTO shield is gone or partially damaged.

Tips for Self Protection-

- When you complete a project, turn off the PTO before getting off the tractor. Stop the tractor and remove the key.
- Do not go near the PTO driveline until all the parts have stopped rotating.
- Don't attempt to check, adjust, unplug or grease any PTO powered equipment while the shaft is rotating.
- Check the manufacturer's manual on how to hook up an implement to the PTO. Make sure no one is on the tractor or near the equipment while you are hooking it up.
- If a PTO is operating while the tractor is stationary, be sure the tractor is in neutral or park and the parking brake is on.
- Don't wear loose clothing around a PTO. If you have long hair, put it up or tuck it under a hat before operating the machinery.
- Each time that you hook up an implement to your tractor's PTO, check to make sure that the shields and guards are in place and functioning properly.

**CHANCE TAKERS ARE ACCIDENT
MAKERS!**
BE ALERT---ACCIDENTS HURT!!!

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