

Moving vehicle safety on farm

Purpose:

To promote safe working practices when working on or around moving vehicles.

Why:

Moving vehicles is a major cause of workplace fatalities and life-changing injuries in agriculture. Therefore, it's vital that everyone operating, working around or visiting a farm site knows the risks and what to do to keep themselves and others safe.

TIAH Capability Framework area:

This aligns with the knowledge and skills in the Health and Safety area.

<https://tiah.org/tiah-capability-framework>

Talk leader instructions:

- Prepare to do the talk in a suitable/quiet location with no distractions
- Consider using some of the resources as part of the talk, e.g. showing a video
- Engage with participants, ask questions and give everyday examples
- Conclude with a brief review
- Get everyone to sign the form. Make sure to write the name of the farm and the date. Keep a copy in your Health and Safety records
- Ensure all participants have access to a copy of this document to refer to once the session has finished. This could be electronic and emailed or printed

Notes:

Background

Moving and overturning vehicles account for approximately one-third of the deaths each year in farming, with 27 lives tragically lost on British farms in the year 2023/24 (HSE). The impact of someone being killed or seriously injured on farm can cause long-lasting psychological effects to families, farmers and co-workers.

Optional: Watch this video on Paralympian Samantha Kinghorn, who suffered life-changing injuries when she was just 14 when she jumped onto the forklift that her father was driving at her family farm (4 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vjgbzTvRR4>

Main learning points 7 minutes

Worksite safety

Farms and horticultural sites can be high-risk environments, as many activities involve vehicles and machinery.

Everyone who enters a farm site, such as employees, visitors, contractors or the public, is at risk, so everyone must be aware of the precautions they can take to keep themselves and others safe.



Here are some other steps you can take to help keep you and others safe.

- Make sure you're familiar with the site rules relating to vehicles and ensure visiting drivers know the rules, including parking areas and any one-way systems
- Traffic routes should be adequately lit and properly maintained. Let your manager/ supervisor know if you spot an issue
- Warning and speed limit signs should be clear and consistent with the Highway Code. Let your manager/ supervisor know if you spot a damaged sign or one not clearly visible
- Make sure alarms are working properly when doing vehicle checks to warn people when the vehicle is reversing. If an alarm isn't working properly, you must report it immediately
- Never try to squeeze between a fixed object such as a wall or door and a moving vehicle
- Wear hi-vis clothing at all times
- If you must speak to the driver, only approach once you've attracted their attention, and it's safe to do so – Never approach the driver from behind the vehicle
- If you need to speak to the driver or mount the vehicle, get them to stop first (SAFE STOP)

Notes:



Remember! It's against the law to allow a child under 13 to ride on or drive agricultural self-propelled machines (such as tractors) and certain other farm machinery.



Any passenger must sit safely on a passenger seat and not accidentally interfere with the controls or obscure the driver's vision.

Important!

Never mount or dismount a moving vehicle.

Overturning tractors and other self-propelled vehicles

Driving on a slope or incline is a frequent factor of overturned vehicles. However, all vehicles can overturn on any terrain, not just slopes or hilly, mountainous regions. Vehicles can even overturn on artificial slopes, such as ramps.

The main risks of overturning tractors and other self-propelled vehicles include:

- **Loss of control** – When wheels lose traction, especially on a slope, because of the effect of gravity. This makes the brakes and steering ineffective
- **Runaways** – If the vehicle is out of control, it can start to run down a slope
- **Jack-knifing** – Poor ground conditions, heavy loads and poor wheel grip can cause the trailer or trailed appliance to push into the tractor and slew round
- **Overturms** – This can happen when attempting to drive diagonally across or down a slope because of a runaway and jack-knife. Vehicles can also overturn forward or backward



You must be fully trained and competent if you're operating a tractor or other farm machinery. You may have completed your training at college, an independent training organisation or through your employer. However, If you're unsure about anything or don't feel confident, you should speak to your supervisor or manager, who will support you through your training.

Lantra also offer a one-day training course for Tractor Driving on Slopes:

<https://www.lantra.co.uk/product/32438>

Q: What might cause a vehicle to lose control and overturn?

Responses might include:

- Gradients can vary across a slope, and different vehicles will have different capabilities
- Different surfaces can affect how well the vehicle deals with it
- Ground may become unsafe if wet, waterlogged or frozen. Ruts, potholes and deep tracks can affect stability
- Weather conditions may increase the risk, such as storms and high winds
- Obstacles such as tree stumps or rocks
- Task may affect stability. For example, when using rear-mounted spreaders, the load will decrease during spreading, reducing rear-wheel grip. Tractors with trailed rollers, four-wheel trailers, etc, will have extra thrust imposed with no additional weight – they may slide away out of control

Notes:

Discussion points



10 minutes

Q: What actions could you take to help keep you safe and prevent a vehicle from losing control or overturning?

Responses might include:

- Select a vehicle with a roll bar or safety cab – this should also include a lap belt or seat restraint for additional protection
- If a lap belt or seat restraint is in the vehicle – then use it, even when doing small jobs
- Make sure the roll bar and safety cab are in good condition
- Vehicles and machines should be adequately equipped and well maintained
- Never remove windows or doors from a safety cab
- Only use a vehicle suitable for the task – Four-wheel drive is likely to be safer to use on slopes compared to two-wheel drive
- Consider wide wheel settings when working on slopes
- Turn uphill on slopes and descend straight down the gentlest gradient
- Select the appropriate gear and speed
- Consider how working with trailers, attachments, and loads will change the centre of gravity

For safety information on using a range of farm vehicles, visit the HSE website: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/machinery/farm-vehicles.htm>

Scenario: Kashia is rushing to feed the sheep at her farm in Cumbria. It's starting to rain and she's losing light. She quickly loads the rack with mineral blocks and bags of feed and sets off forgetting her helmet.

Q: What should Kashia have done to keep herself safe?

Responses might include:

- Carried out a routine pre-start check to ensure everything is in proper working order
- Checked the tyre pressure is correct by referring to the manual and using a tyre pressure gauge specifically for an ATV. Over-inflated tyres provide a less of a surface area. If tyres are over-inflated, it can overturn if a wheel strikes an object
- Checked the planned route previously for obstacles such as hidden rocks or hollows
- Checked the weather conditions in advance. Perhaps she could have rearranged her day and set off earlier in dry, less slippery conditions
- Made sure she wore her helmet. It's good practice to put your keys inside your helmet so you don't forget them
- Checked the weight load limit for the items she was carrying and ensured the weight was evenly distributed and properly secured on the rack

Note: ATVs, such as quad bikes and side-by-side utility vehicles are designed to cope with various off-road conditions, but they can rapidly become unstable if used carelessly. Many quad bike fatalities in the UK have been caused by head injuries. Helmets would have prevented most, if not all, of these deaths.



Optional: In this video from the Farmers Weekly Dying to Feed You campaign, farmer Beca tells her story when her quad bike overturned <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6etjckbK4E>

Suggestions/ ideas:

Summary/Wrap-up

 1 minute

It’s vital that operators, visitors, staff and contractors are fully aware of the risks when operating or being in the vicinity of a moving vehicle. Anyone driving a farm vehicle must be fully trained, competent, and understand how to minimise any risk to themselves and others as much as possible to avoid incidents and near misses.

Resources:

- Work Right Agriculture: Safe Driver: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsZ4d_nm73Q
- Work Right Agriculture: Safe Vehicle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-EfFz5b7a8>
- HSE: Safe workplace transport: <https://workright.campaign.gov.uk/campaigns/agriculture/safe-farm>
- HSE: Farm vehicles: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/machinery/farm-vehicles.htm>
- HSE: Pedestrian safety: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/machinery/pedestrian-safety.htm>
- HSE: Preventing accidents to children on farms: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg472.pdf>
- NFU: Driving agricultural vehicles on an incline: <https://www.nfuonline.com/updates-and-information/driving-agricultural-vehicles-on-an-incline/>
- HSE: Overturning tractors and other self-propelled vehicles: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/topics/machinery/farm-vehicles-2.htm>

Toolbox Talk participants

Toolbox Talk: **Moving vehicle safety on farm**

Name of farmDate

Talk leader name.....

Name	Signature	Date