



A SAFE OPERATION

SAFETY TIPS FOR AGRICULTURE WORKERS

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CATERPILLAR[®]

This pamphlet is not intended to be a comprehensive analysis of all hazards related to CAT® products or to your specific application. More complete information is provided in the Operation & Maintenance Manual (OMM) for specific models. Caterpillar recommends you and your employees read and understand the OMM before operating or working on any machine.

For the general public, the word “farm” summons images of picturesque scenery and herds of roaming animals, but those who work on farms, ranches, feed lots and dairies understand that the real-life scene isn’t quite that simple, nor nearly as safe, as outsiders might think. In fact, farming can be downright dangerous—something farm safety experts have known for many years. Fortunately, steps can be taken to make the farm scene safer—and closer to the idyllic image in the collective mind of the public.



1. Wear seat belts.

Operators of farm machinery are rarely traveling at high speeds, and traffic is limited. There are other working machines, however, and equipment must sometimes use or cross public roads. It’s important to remember- seat belts do much more than protect the operator in the event of a collision. They also keep workers inside the cab’s rollover protection structure (ROPS). Underfoot conditions are often unstable, and the risk of an operator encountering a berm, ravine or a drop-off from a road to a drainage ditch is likely. Any of these hazards can cause a machine to roll—as can loading and unloading. Staying buckled up keeps you in the ROPS—and keeps you safe.

2. Properly enter and exit machines.



Start by taking the proper approach. Always face the equipment and use the steps and rails provided by the manufacturer. Make sure the area is adequately lit, contact areas are clear and that steps and handrails are properly secured and free from mud and debris. Maintain three points of contact when mounting or dismounting. Either one hand and two feet, or two hands and one foot should be on the steps/handrail. Make sure footwear is clean and hands are free of tools or supplies that could encumber the process.

CHECKLIST

Mounting and Dismounting

- ✓ Do not mount a moving machine.
- ✓ Do not dismount a moving machine.
- ✓ Never jump off the machine.
- ✓ Do not carry tools or supplies when mounting or dismounting the machine.
- ✓ Do not use controls as handholds when entering or exiting the operator compartment.

3. Make the shop safe.



Repairing equipment requires caution. Turning off equipment should be obvious, but have you put all safety locks in place? Keep guards and shields on power equipment—they are installed for a reason. Proper ventilation and lighting helps prevent injury. Speaking of lighting ... is the shop properly wired? Using Ground Fault Circuit (GFC) interrupters will help prevent electrical shock. Keep the shop clean, too. An organized workplace makes it easy to find the right tools, prevents heavy objects from falling, and a clean floor helps you avoid slips and falls. Don’t forget – eye protection is a must.



Danger Zones

- ✓ Between lift arms and the cab
- ✓ Between lift arms and the frame
- ✓ Between work tool attachments and frame on either side
- ✓ Under the work tool attachment

Shop Safety

- ✓ Is a fire extinguisher present and operable?
- ✓ Are flammable liquids stored in approved safety cans?
- ✓ Is a fully-equipped first aid kit available?



4. Handle grain properly.

Automation makes it much easier to work with grain than in the past, but the equipment and storage structures can be hazardous. Make your farm safer by starting simple. Don't allow workers to wear loose, unbuttoned or torn clothing. Lock entrances to grain handling areas and use labels on grain bins to warn of entrapment hazards. Install ladders inside bins and notify workers they should not enter bins that are being loaded or unloaded. If entry is required, shut off and lock out power. Use a safety harness with a line and have several others outside the bin, ready to lift the worker out. Watch for grain that might have gone bad. A crusty surface can hide a cavity that may collapse leading to entrapment.



5. Beware of the bunker silo.

Take steps to ensure bunker silos don't collapse on machines or workers. Inspect the silo walls for cracks and foundation problems before harvesting. If a problem is ignored, the weight of new materials could lead damaged walls to crumble outward. Just as dangerous are instances when silage props up faulty walls, only to have them collapse inward when material is removed.



6. No free rides.

Falls from equipment by operators and farmhands are some of the most frequent causes of injury. Start your safety effort by limiting access to those involved in the operation, training or diagnostics of each machine. Next, make sure workers who are approved to ride wear slip-resistant shoes or boots. Keep platforms, footplates and steps clear of mud, manure and other debris; make sure the platform is free of tools, gloves and loose objects. Set the brakes once you've reached your destination.



7. Wear the proper clothing.

When it comes to farming, keep it tight. Loose clothing can get caught in machinery, especially when working around augers or implements. Wear the proper footwear, not only to protect feet from falling objects, but to prevent falls. Farms can be slippery places, and boots with good traction are the first line of defense. Also, make sure the boots are high enough to protect your ankles. Gloves and long pants prevent cuts and scratches. Don't forget to wear your safety glasses or face shield.



CHECKLIST

Eye And Face Protection

Choose eye and face protectors based on the kinds of hazards you may encounter. Safety glasses or face shields should be worn when:

- ✓ Operations like welding, cutting, grinding, and nailing could cause foreign objects to get in your eyes.
- ✓ You are working with concrete and harmful chemicals.
- ✓ You are exposed to electrical hazards—including working on energized electrical systems.
- ✓ You are exposed to flying particles.

8. Make safe attachment changes.

Understand the warning labels pertaining to the forks, buckets and other work tools on your farm. Know the maximum operating capacities and specifications of the host machine and lift capacity restrictions. Also, make sure you're aware of work tool clearance when operating near obstacles, including those that are overhead, such as tree branches and power lines. Before making a work tool change, check the hydraulic hoses and fittings on both the tool and the host machine. Once installed, operate the tool slowly in an open area to make sure all components are working properly (and not leaking).

Safety While Using Quick Couplers

- ✓ Inspect all quick couplers to determine if they are subject to unexpected release hazards. Determine whether a manually installed locking pin and installation procedures (or other retrofitting methods) have been provided by the manufacturer.
- ✓ Train employees to follow the manufacturer's instruction in the OMM: the proper use of quick couplers; making visual inspections; procedures for engaging attachments; and methods for verifying connections.



9. Conduct pre-shift walk around Inspections.



These inspections only take a few minutes and they are one of the best ways to detect small problems before they become serious. Follow walk around guidelines in the OMMs, which should be kept on machines. Supervisors must allow time for a thorough evaluation. Start by making

sure the machine is clean, which means no grease, oil or hydraulic fluid on the steps, railings or controls. Keep windows clean inside and out for clear visibility. On the outside, check for accumulating debris—such as hay, straw and grains—that could be susceptible to fire. Besides debris, you're looking for leaks, cuts, cracks, rubbing or excessive wear. Use your senses: sight, smell, hearing and touch. Have your operators do a walk around any time they get off the machines and again at the end of a shift. Pass all relevant information to other operators and a supervisor.

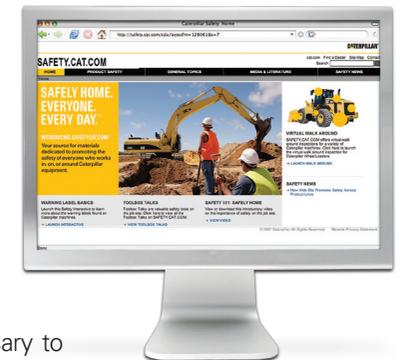
CHECKLIST

Walk around Inspections

- ✓ Use your senses: sight, smell, hearing, and touch.
- ✓ Do a quick walk around: any time you get off the machine, and definitely at the end of the shift.
- ✓ Be aware of any changes with the machine's operation. Pass the information on to the next operator and tell the owner, supervisor or the person responsible for maintenance.

10. Establish a culture of safety and a commitment to training.

Prepare a safety manual or safety sheet for the specific conditions found in your operation. Ensure all equipment is used for its intended purposes and forbid removal of safety guards or other protective gear. Retain material safety data sheets for fertilizers and chemicals. When appropriate, make sure instructions are translated and clearly understood by all workers. Provide regular safety training and conduct weekly training meetings. Be certain new farmhands have been trained before they start working. Give experienced operators a chance to adjust to new machines and to go through any training necessary to assure proficiency. Have them review the OMM to make sure they understand the basics before putting them to work on unfamiliar machines. Safety materials are available for download at **SAFETY.CAT.COM™**.





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The equipment training and safety teams at Caterpillar have spent decades working with customers around the world, across a wide spectrum of equipment applications and jobsite conditions. The key lesson learned is, when it comes to jobsite safety, no amount of equipment technology or advanced machine design can replace caution and good safety practices.

The primary contributors to safe jobsites are awareness, proper training, and attention to detail on the part of business owners and their employees. Safety must be a priority and an ongoing part of your company culture. We hope this booklet is helpful as you strive to profitably grow your business.

We also invite you to view and utilize additional Cat® safety training resources by visiting **SAFETY.CAT.COM™**.



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