

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Farm Safety Reminders**

The week of March 2<sup>nd</sup> was Agriculture Safety Awareness Week, a time to highlight safety topics in agriculture and raise awareness of the safety and health of those who work in agriculture. There are many safety topics related to working in agriculture, but the ones I want to highlight today are electrical safety and PTO safety.

Because we can't see or smell electricity, it is one of the most dangerous things to come into contact with, since we don't know exactly where it is or how powerful it is. If you hit an electrical pole while working ground or get the sprayer boom caught in the ground wire of a power pole, what should you do?

If you run into an electric pole, get caught in an electric line, etc. -

- Call 911 and the electric company to report the accident immediately.
- Always assume every wire is live!
- Stay in the tractor. The tractor's tires are grounding you and preventing you from getting electrocuted.
- Only get out of the tractor if it is unsafe to stay in it (for example, if it's on fire).
- If you have to exit the tractor, jump from the tractor to the ground with your feet together and arms crossed, and bunny hop away from the tractor.
- Don't let anyone on the ground get near the accident scene. They could be electrocuted.

PTOs are a common part of daily tasks, and because of this, it can be easy to forget that they are a safety hazard.

To avoid injury from PTOs -

- Maintain PTO safety guards and shields. A master shield/guard covers the tractor PTO stub on three sides. A driveline shield completely covers the shaft. Replace these if they are lost or damaged!

- Don't Wear Loose-fitting Clothing! Baggy or loose clothing, like shirts, sweatshirts, coats, and long pants, can get caught and tangled in a rotating PTO shaft.
- Pull back long hair. Like loose-fitting clothing, long hair can get caught and tangled in a rotating PTO shaft.
- Never step over a rotating PTO shaft!
- Always turn off the tractor/implement when making repairs.
- Never try to remove debris close to an in-use PTO shaft.
- Train others how to safely operate PTOs, and be sure to talk to kids about staying away from PTOs when they are running.

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