



RISK REMINDER

November 2021

Name: _____ Company: _____

HARVEST SEASON DRIVING SAFETY



Autumn is here, which means it is that time of year when motorists and farm equipment are sharing rural roads, increasing the potential for driving accidents. Therefore, road safety must become a top priority for all drivers. Use these safety tips to prevent collisions between farm equipment and other vehicles:

For Farmers ■

Farmers can take steps to enhance farm machinery visibility. Before traveling on public roads remember to:

- Adjust mirrors for good vision.
- Make sure that all warning flashers, lights, and slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblems are in proper operating condition, clean, and easily visible. If they are covered with dust, wipe them off before leaving the field.
- Check tire inflation pressures. Inflate the tires to the maximum recommended pressure for long-distance travel.

When traveling on public roads:

- Watch for potholes or obstacles that could tip the tractor.
- Listen for cars. Often vehicles will rapidly approach from the rear at three to four times the speed of the tractor.
- Stay alert at all times to avoid a serious accident. Do not use the cell phone or two-way radio while operating equipment on public roads.
- Keep a constant lookout for pedestrians, animals, mailboxes, steep ditch embankments and other roadway obstacles.
- Slow down for sharp curves or when going down a hill.
- Consider using an escort vehicle to follow behind.
- Be cognizant of high traffic times, usually mornings and late afternoons. While it often is impossible to avoid operating on the roads during these times, it may be possible to limit road transportation.

For Motorists ■

Keep in mind the following safety tips for motorists as you share the road with farm equipment:

- Farm machinery has a legal right to use public roads just as other motor vehicles.
- Farm machinery can unexpectedly turn onto a public road from a field or driveway. Farm machinery travels slower than normal traffic, often at speeds of 25 miles per hour or less. Automobile drivers must quickly identify farm equipment and slow down immediately to avoid rear-end crashes.
- Farm machinery operators may not be able to see you because the large equipment or a load can block part of their rear view. If you can't see the driver, the driver can't see you.
- Slow-moving farm machinery traveling less than 25 miles per hour should display a slow moving vehicle emblem on the back of the equipment. This is a quickly identifiable sign to other motorists.
- Machinery that is half on the road and half on the shoulder may suddenly move completely onto the road.
- Extra-wide farm machinery may take up more than one lane to avoid hitting obstacles such as mailboxes and road signs.

Before passing farm machinery:

- Check to be sure the machinery is not turning left. Look for left turn lights or hand signals. If the machinery slows and pulls toward the right side of the road, the operator is likely preparing to make a wide left turn. Likewise, sometimes to make a right turn with wide equipment, the driver must fade to the left.
- Determine if the road is wide enough for you and the machinery to safely share.
- Be sure there is adequate distance for you to safely pass.

Questions - True or False:

1. Extreme caution should be used to pass a farm vehicle on the road. _____
2. Slow Moving Vehicles may not be easily seen if going over a hill or around a curve. _____
3. Farmers should be aware of high traffic times to help avoid collisions. _____

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