



Hazard Control and Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) on Your Farm

Many farmers perform formal or informal safety audits on their farms. The physical state of the farm workplace is associated with injury. Therefore, the goal is to improve the physical state through risk assessment and taking action to correct hazards by using the most effective hazard control. The Hierarchy of Control is a standard industrial hygiene approach. A typical hazard found on Saskatchewan farms are tractors without ROPS. In fact, 43% of tractors on Saskatchewan farms do not have ROPS.

The absence of ROPS on a tractor is a critical hazard meaning that in the case of a rollover, the condition could cause a loss of life or permanent disability. A rollover incident is preventable. The good news is that rollover fatalities are 99% preventable when combined with ROPS and the use of a seatbelt. Because of the high risk associated with rollovers and the impact on farm fatality statistics, correction of this hazard should take high priority.

If it is not possible to eliminate the tractor from use or substitute a safer one, the next best alternative is installing a retrofitted ROPS.

Proper training of workers and the appropriate personal protective equipment such as hearing and respiratory protection should still be a priority. As the farm manager set a good example and wear the seatbelt!

For more information on the Farm Safety Audit go to the Agricultural Health and Safety Network's website: agsafety@usask.ca

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For more information: www.agrivita.ca

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