

Tips for “My Experience with Tractor Overturns” and “My Story” Activities

Content

This activity polls a farm community group about their experiences with tractor overturns. The members of the group tally up the number of persons they know who have overturned tractors and have been killed, permanently disabled, seriously injured, or not injured. These numbers are then tallied and discussed. Persons are invited to tell their stories about tractor overturn events they have experienced or that someone they know personally has experienced.

Objectives

The purpose of these two activities is to:

- Raise awareness about the large number of tractor overturns that occur in almost all farm communities over a number of years.
- Personalize the risk of tractor overturns for local farmers and farm family members.
- Examine the consequences of these overturns for local persons known to the group.
- Consider in what ways these events might be prevented in the future.
- Collect personal stories that may be useful in teaching others about the risk of tractor overturns and ways to prevent injuries to tractor drivers during these events.

Intended Audience

- Young and adult farm men and women
- Family members who make decisions about farm finances and operation
- Farm family members who are concerned about the welfare of their friends and loved ones
- Farm community groups who provide educational, financial, business, social, spiritual, and health services and advice to farmers and their family members

How to Use These Materials

- Read this introduction to these activities and look through the materials.
- Decide for which groups the activities might be most suitable
- Use the materials in any of these ways:
 - ⇒ As an activity and presentation at a local farm community meeting
 - ⇒ As the basis for a discussion with a single farm family member or with a few family members or farmers
 - ⇒ As an activity that can be conducted by FFA students, 4-H teens, and vocational agriculture students as a community service project, where the activity would be
 - ◇ taken to various groups in the community
 - ◇ the results brought back to school
 - ◇ reported in poster displays, at local and regional meetings, in the local press, etc.
- Allow about 15 to 20 minutes to complete the activity. It takes somewhat longer with a large group. The activity works best with groups of fewer than 30 people.

- Collect personal stories from those who are willing to complete and share their “My Story” form. Use these stories as part of other programs and presentations to teach about the need for ROPS, the cost of tractor overturn injuries, and how ROPS and seat belts can prevent tractor overturn injuries and save money.

Materials Needed

- Multiple copies of the one-page “Twenty Questions about My Experiences with Tractor Overturns” form on page 2 of the Instructor’s Guide. (Print pages 2 and 3 front and back.)
- Multiple copies of the one-page “My Story” form on page 3. (Print pages 2 and 3 front and back.)
- Multiple copies of the one-page “Helping to Prevent Rollover Injuries and Fatalities” lesson and discussion guide on page 4.
- One paper copy and one overhead transparency of the “Experience with Tractor Overturns Summary Data Sheet” found on page 5.
- Duplicate enough copies of the first three items so that each person has his or her own copy of each page.

Discussion Questions and Teaching Points

1. Have many tractor overturns occurred in this community over the last 30 years?
2. How many different people do the members of this group know who have
 - died in tractor overturns?
 - been permanently disabled in tractor overturns?
 - been seriously injured in tractor overturns?
 - have overturned a tractor without a ROPS and not been injured?
 - have overturned a tractor with a ROPS and not been injured?
3. When the group consists of older farmers (age 50-70), what happens to the total number of persons that they know who have overturned a tractor? Why? (Look at page 6 for the results for a group of Fleming County farmers.)
4. If this same activity is repeated in this community 30 years from now, how many people do you think that may have overturned a tractor? How many of these people do you think may have been injured or killed? Why?
5. What things could be done to make sure that no one in this community dies during a tractor overturn in the next 30 years?
6. Which of these measures to prevent tractor overturn deaths and injuries in this county over the next 30 years are practical? Impractical? Why?
7. Who is it that can make a difference in reducing tractor overturn injuries and deaths? How can they do so?

Ideas, Notes, and Comments

Write down your ideas and plans for using this activity.