

Tips for “Skits about Tractors and ROPS”

Content

The skits concern risks of tractor overturns and the lifesaving protection provided by rollover protective structures (ROPS). Some of the skits contain factual information gathered from studies about farm injuries and their prevention. Other skits recreate farmers’ actual conversations about ROPS. People of all ages enjoy short skits like these. When used during a program or presentation, the skits communicate important messages and help to maintain participants’ interest and involvement.

Objectives

Observing and/or participating in these skits can help farm community members become more aware of the:

- Risk of tractor overturns to all persons who operate farm tractors.
- Life-saving protection provided by ROPS and seat belts during tractor overturns.
- Frequency of close calls related to tractor overturn injuries.
- Peace of mind, potential financial savings, and preservation of the quality of life that ROPS and seat belts can provide.

Intended Audiences

- Young and adult farm men and women
- Family members who make decisions about farm finances and operation
- Farm families who are concerned about the welfare of their children 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

- Use these short skits as brief activities during a meeting.
 - ⇒ Ask for volunteers, one for each character (and one for the announcer or the sound-effects person if the script calls for them).
 - ⇒ Give each volunteer a copy of the skit script.
 - ⇒ Ask the volunteers to come to the front of the room and read their part of the script. (It takes from three-to-five minutes to complete one skit.)
 - ⇒ When using the skits, don’t attempt to use too many of them at one time. It is more effective to use one or two skits at different times during a program.
- Consider asking members of the group to write and present their own scripts about close calls they have experienced with tractors and overturns, and issues they have debated and discussed about getting ROPS and seat belts for tractors.
- Also consider using these skits as short messages delivered
 - ⇒ through the public address system to high school students or adults attending classes or meetings in schools and other public places
 - ⇒ as radio announcements or commercials delivered community-wide by local radio stations
 - ⇒ as printed messages delivered by local newsletters and other print media

- Collect stories from local people's conversations about tractor overturns, ROPS, and seat belts. Use these stories to create new scripts tailored for your community.

Materials Needed

- The instructions included in this "Tips" sheet
- The attached scripts for the skits
- Volunteers from the groups to whom the skits are being presented

Discussion Questions and Teaching Points

1. What is going on in the skits that you have just heard?
2. Which of the skits, or which parts of them, make the most sense to you? Why?
3. Which skits remind you of situations and experiences that you have encountered about tractor safety, risk of overturns, and getting ROPS and seat belts?
4. Can you tell a true story about a situation similar to the ones told in the skits?
5. Get together with a friend. See if you can write and present a short script that deals with other important aspects of finding the inclination, time, and money to get ROPS and seat belts on tractors.

Ideas, Notes, and Comments

Use this space to write down your ideas and plans for using these messages.