

Photo 1 - Orange tractor, completely upside down

This experienced farmer was bushhogging for a neighbor. While traveling up the road where the truck is parked, he made a U-turn. The left tractor wheels dropped off the edge of the gravel road. The tractor flipped upside down. A neighbor witnessed the overturn. The local rescue squad raised the tractor, removed the farmer's body, and laid it out beside the tractor. The white substance beside and slightly ahead of the tractor is an absorbent used to soak up the blood where the body lay until the coroner arrived. If his tractor had a ROPS, and if he had worn the seat belt, the farmer almost certainly would not have been injured and would have walked away from the overturn.

Photo 2 - Red tractor overturned in a stream

This experienced farmer was bushhogging a pasture along a stream bank when a portion of the bank collapsed. The tractor and the bushhog overturned into the creek. When he didn't come home, a family member went looking for him and found him after dark. The farmer's body was underwater in the creek, crushed beneath the overturned tractor. He drowned with his face and body pressed into the mud at the bottom of the creek. A ROPS and seat belt could have saved him. The ROPS would have held the tractor off the creek bottom and allowed him to unbuckle the seat belt and escape.

Photo 3 - Tractor with a white radiator overturned on a chain-link fence

This experienced farmer was using a box scraper on the back of his tractor to grade crushed stone on a gravel road. A heavy rain had washed the stone downhill and to one side. As the farmer moved the stone with the scraper, the left wheels of the tractor dropped off the side of the road. The tractor overturned crushing the farmer to death.

Photo 4 - Overturned red tractor with a ROPS

This experienced farmer was mowing the banks on a farm road that runs along the side of a field. The farmer says he remembers being careful and moving along slowly. Then the tractor's left wheels dropped off the edge of the road. The overturn happened in an instant. The next thing he remembers is crawling out from under the overturned tractor. He was not hurt. The ROPS prevented him from being crushed. The second photograph (4A) shows the tractor after it had been uprighted with only slight damage to the hood.

Photo 5 - Red tractor with a ROPS overturned into a creek bed

A 13-year-old boy was mowing along a creek bank when his tractor went over the edge and instantly overturned. The tractor was equipped with a Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) that prevented the boy's body from being crushed by the tractor. He was thrown from the seat and his legs were pinned under the tractor. He required surgery to remove a blood clot from one leg, but was not seriously injured. If he had worn the seat belt, the boy would have stayed in his seat and not been injured. The second photo (5A) is a close up of the boy pinned under the tractor. The sheriff's department took the photos during the rescue. If there had been water in the creek the boy would have drowned. If his father had not seen the overturn, and the boy had remained trapped under the tractor for a few hours, he could have lost one or both legs.

Photo 6 - Overturnd green tractor with a ROPS

An experienced farmer was bushhogging in a field when the right rear wheel of his tractor dropped into a worn cow path. The bushhog caught on a mound of dirt and the tractor flipped over backwards. The lid on the toolbox fell open and the wrenches tumbled out bruising and cutting the farmer. He walked away with no other injuries. Without the ROPS, he would have been crushed between the tractor and the bushhog. The farmer had debated for two years whether or not to spend the \$1,200 to retrofit his old tricycle tractor with a ROPS and sunshade. He decided to do so and less than a year later had his first overturn. The second photo (6A) is a close-up shot of the tractor operator's compartment.

Photo 7 - Completely upside down red tractor with front-end loader

This 66-year-old lifelong farmer was bushhogging a pasture on nearly flat land when the right rear tire fell into a small sinkhole causing the tractor to overturn. The tractor had a white, homemade canopy for sun protection that provided no protection during the overturn. The overturn happened around 1 PM. Late that evening, when the farmer didn't come home, his wife called the sheriff's department. The rescue squad found him the next morning at about 4:30 AM. He was still in the tractor seat, crushed between the steering wheel and the canopy. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The weight of the raised front-end loader contributed to the overturn. The farmer probably died instantly. Even if he had received less serious injuries he could have died from shock and exposure during the 15.5 hours he was trapped under the tractor.