

SPINAL CORD INJURY

Teacher Fact Sheet

Use these facts, points and figures in your introduction and discussion of the lesson with the students.

- One month of medical supplies costs more than a monthly payment on an ATV.
- One set of urinary catheter supplies for a week costs more than three CD's (5 sets of catheters and 2 leg bags).
- It takes three-quarters of a second for a tractor to overturn. It takes a half a second just to think about how to react. That only leaves a quarter of a second to jump. To put this into perspective, one eye blink takes about a quarter of a second. A tractor turns over in the same amount of time it takes to blink your eyes three times as fast as you can (University of Kentucky, et al, 2000).
- Improper hitching (hitching too high) causes most tractor overturns.
- A seatbelt should never be used on a tractor without a ROPS.
- Most tractors can be retrofitted with a ROPS. Many dealers will do this at cost.
- Tractors manufactured after 1986 are ROPS and seatbelt equipped.
- ATVs should never be used for pulling posts or stumps.
- Ladders or climbing surfaces should be secured to the wall or structure. They should have flat surfaces for your feet.
- The costs of caring for a spinal cord injury patient may be more than \$100,000 per year, if you include medical care, medical supplies, and the value of a helper for personal care and assistance. Health insurance will not cover most of these expenses.

Additional references to use:

- Breaking New Ground Website
<http://pasture.ecn.purdue.edu/ABE/Extension/BNG>
- Hancock J & Field WE. (1989). Special Breaking New Ground technical report: Farming following a spinal cord injury. (Available from Breaking New Ground Resource Center, Purdue University, 1146 ABE Building, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1146).