



Hand-me-down Hazards: Dangers of Used Equipment¹

Carol J. Lehtola and Charles M. Brown²

The condition of equipment sold at auctions or transferred from person to person varies widely, so it's important to examine used equipment carefully.

When equipment is purchased through a dealership, the purchase usually includes a warranty, directions for maintenance and operation, warning signs, "seals of approval" and assurances that the equipment conforms with voluntary or federal standards.

But regardless of where you buy your equipment, look for items that may detract from safety. They include missing shields and poor upkeep.

A bargain price may not be worth the risks involved. Don't be blinded by a "sale" and end up with equipment for which you didn't bargain.

Ask yourself the following questions when you're buying used equipment.

- Are operating manuals included?
- Are shields and guards in place?
- Is the equipment in decent condition?
Breakdowns due to poor maintenance could cause unsafe working conditions.

- If you're buying a tractor, is it equipped with a ROPS? If it isn't, determine who's responsible for making sure it's installed. Remember, tractors manufactured after October 1976 that are used by employees are required to have ROPS and seat belts per OSHA Standard 1928.51 (Roll-over protective structures (ROPS) for tractors used in agricultural operations).

• *Remember:*



For More Information

For more information about tractor safety, visit the Florida AgSafe Network Web site:

<http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu>

The following publications are available at your county Extension office and at the EDIS Web site, <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>>. (IFAS Publication Numbers

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2. Carol J. Lehtola, assistant professor, Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist, and Charles M. Brown, Assistant Coordinator for Agricultural Safety and Health, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

are in parentheses after the titles. The second set of parentheses contains the Web address at which the publication can be viewed.)

- Getting Started on the Right Foot: Dangers of Bypass Starting (AE299) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE172.>)
- When Two's a Crowd: Dangers of Extra Riders on Tractors (AE300) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE173.>)
- Filling Gas Cans Safely (AE301) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE174.>)
- Lighting and Marking Farm Equipment for Road Travel -- Summary of ASAE Standard S279.10 (AE302) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE175.>)
- Road Safety for Tractors and Farm Machinery (AE303) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE176.>)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) (AE304) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE177.>)
- Avoid The Invisible Hazard: Know About Soil Shear Lines (AE305) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE178.>)
- Shortcuts are Shortsighted! or Invest Seconds, Save Lives (AE306) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE179.>)
- Ready or Not? Get Ready with a Tractor Operator Checklist (AE307) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE180.>)
- Yee-Haa! Formula for a Successful Tractor Rodeo (AE308) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE181.>)
- Hand-me-down Hazards: Dangers of Used Equipment (AE309) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE182.>)
- Safety Tips for Tractor Loading and Towing (AE310) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE183.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Agricultural Employers (Circular 1249) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE195.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Privately Owned and Operated Farms and Ranches (Circular 1250) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE196.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Acreages and Homeowners (Circular 1251) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE197.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Landscape Maintenance and Horticultural Industries (Circular 1252) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE198.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Emergency and Rescue Personnel (Circular 1253) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE199.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Farm Workers and Employees (Circular 1254) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE200.>)