



PTO SAFETY TIPS

Power Take Off (PTO) is a supplementary mechanism (as on a tractor) enabling the engine power to be used to operate nonautomotive apparatus, such as a pump or saw.

Facts

- A PTO at 540 RPM – Pulls in seven feet per second
- A PTO at 1000 RPM – Pulls in 13 feet per second
- The average person's reaction time is about three quarters of a second.
- At 540 RPMs, the average person would have been pulled into the PTO about 5 ¼ feet before they even realized that they were in danger.

Prevention

- Wear tight fitting clothing.
- Keep hair pulled back and close to the head or tucked into a cap.
- Replace frayed clothing including gloves.
- Check to make sure all PTO shields and guards are in place at time of operation.
- Disengage the PTO, shut off the tractor, and remove the keys before dismounting to clean, repair, service or adjust machinery.
- Start equipment only from the cab or operator's station. Make sure everyone is clear of the machine before starting power.
- If using stationary equipment, keep a safe distance from the PTO so that there is no danger of falling into it. The best shield won't work if the operator gets too close.
- Do not reach over the back of the tractor to adjust the PTO or throttle.
- Never step over a revolving PTO shaft even if shielded. If children are present, even stepping over a non-rotating PTO may cause them to think it is okay to cross.
- Retrofit older PTO's with shields. Check with local implement dealer of the manufacturer to order specific retrofit parts.
- Never let anyone under the age of 18 operate a PTO.
- Make PTO works areas off limits to young children.

References

- Ref. 1 - Power Take-Off (PTO) Safety. Pennsylvania State University. Dennis J. Murphy. 1/20/2014
<http://extension.psu.edu/business/ag-safety/vehicles-and-machinery/tractor-safety/e23>
- Ref. 2 - Power Take-Off (PTO) Safety – National Ag Safety Database. Pennsylvania State University. Dennis J. Murphy.
<http://nasdonline.org/document/905/d000745/power-take-off-pto-safety.html>