

# PTO SAFETY TIPS



## 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 1/4 feet. before they even realized that they were in danger.
- The tractor or machinery operator is involved in 78 percent of incidents.
- Over half of PTO incidents occur from unshielded PTO shafts.
- Approximately 70 percent of PTO entanglement areas include the PTO coupling, either at the tractor or implement connection.

## 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.
- Retrofit older PTO's with shields. Check with a local implement dealer of the manufacturer to order specific retrofit parts.
- Never let anyone under the age of 18 operate a PTO.
- Make PTO work areas off limits to young children.