

Canadian  
Agricultural  
Safety Week  
March 14-20, 2007

# FACT SHEET #8

THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE  
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## Preventing crushes

From rolling machinery to falling front-end loaders there are countless crush hazards on a farm. While farm operators and workers can't prevent every hazard on a farm, they should prevent every hazard they can by taking simple preventative measures while working.

*"Protect your moving parts!"* is the theme of this year's Canadian Agricultural Safety Campaign with a focus on crushes, pinch points, entanglements, and the importance of guarding. The yearlong campaign will be launched with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), March 14-20, 2007. The CASW campaign is delivered by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) in partnership with Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

"Most safety practices are quick, inexpensive and easy to implement," says John Ryan, FCC President and CEO. "Safety is about simple work practices – like putting blocks under a raised piece of equipment to avoid a crush injury. It only takes a minute but can mean the difference between life and death. Safe farms are successful farms."

Entanglements and being pinned or struck by machinery are the third most frequent cause of death on Canadian farms and ranches accounting for 14 percent of all agricultural fatalities. This type of injury also accounts for almost a quarter (23 per cent) of farm-related hospitalizations, often resulting in severe injury and amputation.

Failure to block-up equipment safely can result in a fatal crushing injury. A jack may slip, a hose or overhead support may break, or the equipment may roll. Stored energy hazards are present in pressurized systems such as hydraulics, compressed air, and springs. The sudden or unsuspected pressurization or de-pressurization of these systems can result in implements falling and causing crushes and other types of hazards depending on the use of the system. Always take the precaution of placing support blocks under the equipment prior to working with raised machinery for any reason.

Crush points hazards are created when two objects move toward each other or one object moves toward a stationary one. Examples of crush-points hazards are the raising and lowering of equipment with a three-point hitch, components that are moved by hydraulic cylinders, and the areas between the tractor and machinery when hitching or turning.

*more...2.*

## ***Preventing Crushes ...2.***

Crushing injuries most commonly occur to fingers that are crushed at the hitching point. Wait until the tractor has stopped before stepping to the hitching position. If possible arrange the hitch point so that the tractor can be backed into position without a person in-between. Always know what the other person is doing.

The head or chest of an operator may be crushed between the equipment and a low beam or other part of a building. Usually, these accidents occur when operating the machine in reverse. Tree limbs are also potential hazards when working with tractors and other machinery.

To prevent being crushed or pinned, first recognize the potentially dangerous situations, then avoid them whenever possible. Block all machinery securely if you must work under it. If an implement can roll freely, block its wheels so it cannot roll.

The CFA along with FCC, CASA, and AAFC want to remind Canadian farmers to “*Protect your moving parts!*” by blocking raised or rolling equipment before working on it.

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### **For more information call:**

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