

Safe PTO Operation

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Checklist for safe PTO operation	Yes	No
"Warning" Is the engine turned OFF and the PTO is NOT turning?		
Is the tractor PTO shield in place?		
Is the drawbar height and length set to the implement manufacturer's specifications?		
Does the PTO shaft shield turn freely when tested by hand?		
Is the PTO shield free of dents and other damage?		
Are all guards and shields in place?		
Are shear bolts/pins of proper length and hardness?		
Are you wearing snug fitting clothing with no hanging drawstrings or frayed cuffs?		
Are you wearing non-lace boots or boots with short laces instead of shoes or boots with dangling shoelaces?		
Will you take the time to walk around the tractor instead of stepping over the spinning PTO shaft?		
Did you answer " Yes " to all of these questions? If not, take time to repair the equipment or make necessary changes in your operating practices to protect yourself from a PTO shaft entanglement.		

STRATEGIES TO PTO SAFETY

1. **Always disengage the PTO, shut off the engine and remove the key before getting off the tractor.** This protects you from accidental entanglement while servicing the equipment and ensures that no one else can start the tractor during maintenance procedures.
2. **Keep the master shield in place at all times.** The master shield should be removed only when required for hooking up special equipment with equivalent shielding. Replace the PTO tractor stub shaft guard whenever PTO driven equipment is not being used.
3. **Check that the PTO driveline shields are in good condition.** With the PTO stopped, the shield should rotate freely by hand. Make any necessary repairs to damaged bearings or shields
4. **Never modify driveline shields to make servicing or connections easier.** Cutting or drilling a hole in the shield allows dirt, chaff or other foreign materials access to shaft bearings. This reduces the life of the shield and also increases the risk of the operator getting clothing caught in the spinning shaft.
5. **Never step across a rotating PTO driveline.** Always take the time to walk around a rotating shaft. Although the shaft may be enclosed in safety shields and guards, there is a chance that clothing could be caught in the spinning shafts.
6. **Wear snug fitting clothing.** Bulky, loose fitting clothing can quickly be caught in a spinning shaft, entangling an unsuspecting operator. Boots or shoes without laces are preferred because laces may become entangled in the shaft. Nylon jackets can flap in the wind and catch on a PTO shaft; likewise, hooded sweatshirt with drawstrings can catch on moving equipment, entangling the operator.

For additional information, contact your local Outreach and Extension Center or the MU Extension Rural Safety & Health Program at: 1.800.995.8503.

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