



Hazard Alert

HAZARD SUMMARY

An Island farmer was involved in a serious workplace injury when the farmer's clothing got caught in the Power Take Off of a tow sprayer. The farmer had not disengaged the PTO before getting out of the tractor to adjust the equipment. While working too close to the PTO, the farmer's coat drawstring became entangled in the knuckle of the PTO. The farmer was pulled into the spinning shaft, which resulted in several broken ribs and an amputation of the left arm due to severe injuries.

Hazard Location:

An open field that was to be sprayed and ploughed down.



Cause:

The serious workplace injury was caused by a dangerous combination of:

- Being in a rush and consequently leaving the PTO on while making adjustments to the equipment;
- Failing to have the appropriate guards in place over the PTO; and
- Wearing loose clothing with drawstrings.

Legislated Requirements:

The Occupational Health and Safety Act, Section 17 states that “A self-employed person shall take every reasonable precaution to protect the self-employed person’s own occupational health and safety and that of other persons who may be affected by that self-employed person’s undertaking.”

The PEI Farm Safety Code of Practice requires under Section 5 that the farmer must:

- Turn off the machine and remove the key before making any repairs or adjustments;
- Ensure PTO drivelines are fully shielded;
- Never wear loose, baggy clothing around PTO drivelines; and
- Stay clear of rotating PTO drivelines.

Recommended Precautions:

1. Shut PTO’s off before working on equipment.
2. Ensure that equipment is fully maintained and all shields are in place before operating equipment.
3. Ensure that there are no loose strings hanging from clothes or that clothes are not too loose.

