



# Prevention Update

**Safety Matters  
@ Work**

## **POTATO HARVESTING GUIDELINES**

Potato harvesting is a highly mechanized operation that involves large machinery, moving vehicles, long hours and a variety of weather conditions. Potato farmers often hire several additional people to work in the fields and storage warehouses during the harvest season. These workers may or may not have previous farm experience. Therefore, it is essential that all workers are given a safety orientation to prevent workplace injuries.



### ***Reduce your risk:***

***It is possible to create a safe work environment. The following recommendations will help reduce the risk of injuring workers and family.***

- Enforce a “no visitor” policy in the fields. Ask workers to notify their family and friends that they must not come onto the worksite.
- No children under the age of 14 should be allowed in the field or in the truck.
- Ensure that all workers are properly trained and following safe work procedures on the equipment they are working on.

### **Safety Orientation Checklist**

To help ensure that all workers have received an adequate orientation, review the checklist on the following page.

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## **Operators**

- Only designated operators are responsible for the operation of specific equipment.
- Once stopped, the machinery should not be moved until the operator or designated person ensures that no person or equipment is in harms way.
- Operators and/or owners must ensure that all machinery is equipped with the proper guarding.
- All trucks and harvesters should be equipped with back-up alarms.
- Before any cleaning, maintenance or repair is done, operators should park the harvester in a safe area and turn all power sources off.
- When unloading, trucks should not begin backing up until a designated person is in place to assist and direct the driver. All other workers must remain clear of the process.
- Operators must ensure that workers are aware of the pinch point hazards.

## **Workers**

- Workers should never walk between the harvester and a loading truck while the vehicles are moving.
- Workers should be aware of, and keep away from, all pinch points and moving parts of conveyors.
- Workers should wait until the equipment comes to a complete stop before getting on or off the machinery.
- Workers at the storage warehouse should stay beyond the loading end of the bin piler.
- No worker, other than the driver, should be on the machinery while it is traveling on public roads.
- All workers must wear Personal Protective Equipment, such as CSA approved safety footwear, safety glasses and hearing protection depending on the job being performed.

**PROMOTING SAFE WORKPLACES ... PROTECTING EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS**

