

18/11/2019

Tractor rollover - Fatality

5 November 2019

Incident overview

A 36-year-old man died when the tractor he was steering – which was being towed by another tractor – rolled over and crushed him. The incident occurred at Clybucca.



Photograph: The tractor was towed using a chain

The investigation

- SafeWork NSW inspectors responded to the incident.
- SafeWork NSW commenced an investigation to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident.

18/11/2019

Safety Information

Businesses are reminded of their duty to identify hazards and manage risks to health and safety in accordance with the provisions of the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) and [Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017](#).

A vehicle rollover is one of the most common causes of fatalities in the agricultural industry.

Businesses must implement 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risks associated with the rollover of vehicles such as tractors. Make sure:

- you don't hitch above the centre line of the axle when pulling heavy loads
- you hitch to the front drawbar and use reverse gear when towing a vehicle, to eliminate the potential for the tractor to backflip
- you use the clutch gently when starting up a slope, or towing
- you use an approved fold-down ROPS, with a locking device, when working inside or close to buildings or trees – and install other rollover-protection measures when the ROPS is folded down
- you don't steer sideways when going up or down a slope
- the tractor is fitted with a rollover protection structure (ROPS), in accordance with [section 26](#) of the regulation – more information is in [AS1636:1996](#)
- the ROPS is regularly checked for rust, cracks, fatigue and deformation – if it is present, repair or replace the ROPS
- you don't change the ROPS – weld it or drill it - without first getting advice from the manufacturer or a suitably competent person
- a seatbelt, when fitted, is always worn

Further information

You can also refer to the following guidance materials:

- [Code of practice: Safe design and operation of tractors](#)
- [Tractor rollover protection structures \(ROPS\) – Requirements](#) – WorkSafe Victoria
- [Tractor safety precautions](#) – WorkCover Queensland
- [Safe use of tractors with attachments](#) – WorkSafe WA
- [Code of practice: Managing the risks of plant in the workplace](#)
- [Agriculture work health and safety sector plan](#)
- [Small business safety rebate program](#) (includes purchase of a ROPS)