

Marc Small Equipment Safety Course

This course should be taught outside or under cover with the Farm tractor loader with mower attached and Zero turn mower.

Items to cover Follow:

Know your equipment before you use it. Read the owner's manual that came with unit. If you need one you can download the manual on the internet. You should not learn what all the buttons and handles do while running the unit.

There are safety pictures that portray dangerous situations in the manual. Most people pay no attention to them.

Complacency is an accident waiting to happen!

General safety warnings are:

- 1- Handle fuel safely- avoid fires. Always stop engine before refueling. Do not refuel machine while smoking or near open flame.
- 2- Prepare for emergencies. Keep a first aid kit and fire extinguisher handy. Keep emergency numbers in a known place. I.e. doctors, fire department, hospital etc.

- 3- Wear close fitting clothing and safety equipment. Ear protection can prevent hearing loss due to prolonged loud noise.
- 4- Stay clear of all rotating parts. Shut of mower and or PTO and engine prior to dismounting or servicing the unit.
- 5- Keep all shields in place
- 6- When on road utilize lights, reflector tape, slow moving vehicle emblem
- 7- Utilize safety chain when pulling an implement with a tractor. This will help control the equipment if it accidently becomes detached from the draw bar.
- 8- Keep ROPS installed
- 9- Prevent battery explosions. Keep sparks, lighted matches and open flame away from battery hydrogen gas is extremely explosive.
- 10- Do not charge a frozen battery as it may explode
- 11- Practice safe maintance, never lubricate or service machine while it is moving. Keep hands, feet and clothing from all power-driven parts. Disengage all power, lower equipment to the ground, stop engine and allow to cool.
- 12- Secure all elements that must be raised for work. i.e. loader, mower etc.
- 13- Remove any buildup of grease, oil, and debris.
- 14- Disconnect battery cable whenever welding is performed. If not disconnected the electrical system may be damaged.

Additional safety items for small compact tractors.

- 1-Use safety belt, do not jump off tractor if it overturns, you could be crushed. If older tractor without ROPS, try and jump up hill! The tractor is going to roll downhill.
- 2- Avoid turns, rough terrain and slopes. If you need to mow a slope go up and down not horizontal. Being careful when you turn to make an additional pass.
- 3-Keep children and others away
- 4-Look behind before backing.
- 5- Never carry riders
- 6- If using a loader, keep the load low. Avoid hills and turn carefully with load as it changes the center of gravity. Avoid power lines. Do not walk or allow anyone else to walk under a raised loader. If cutting fire wood etc. do not try and push the tree over with the loader. Branches above can break off and hit the operator. These branches are sometimes referred to as "Widow Makers".
- 7- Always lower attachments when parking the unit. They can fall and injure someone.
- 8- Lock the brake when parking.
- 9- If you have little ones, remove key and put in a secure place. They watch what you do and will try to run the unit on their own.

10- When mowing, keep all people and animals away from the grass discharge area. Items can be thrown for long distances causing injury.

11- Be careful going around blind turns. A child or animal could be around the corner and you could drive over them.

12= The ROPS extend above the machine. Low branches can hit the ROPS and cause the unit to rear up. This is very dangerous. The operator can be thrown or the unit can possibly flip over.

Please note- the above information is generic and is found in all manufacturers operator and owners manuals.