

Kansas Farm Bureau

Power Take-off Shaft (PTO) Safety Demonstration

A PTO safety demonstration can be extremely dangerous if not done properly. The safety of the presenter and spectators is paramount. The tractor should never be running while preparing for this demonstration. Never allow anyone to try to manually put a dummy (or anything else) into a revolving PTO. The tractor should be shut off immediately following the demonstration.

Purpose: Demonstrates how dangerous an unguarded PTO shaft is and stresses the importance of prevention in farm safety.

Who organizes a PTO safety demonstration? The County Farm Bureau

What Do I Need?

1. A tractor with an implement attached
2. Experienced Tractor Operator
3. One “dummy” for each demo
4. Extra Baling Twine
4. PTO Safety information.

How much time should I plan? It depends how long the safety lecture is, normally 15 - 20 mins.

Suggested Agenda: Stress prevention! Gather participants to explain the dangers associated with PTOs. Have handouts to pass out. **Before the actual demonstration, make sure they step back away from the PTO at least 15 feet.** We don't want anyone hurt by flying debris.

What Do I Use to Make a Dummy? Old coveralls work best; old jeans and shirts work well also. Tie the ends of the legs and arms with baling twine (not wire). Use straw or hay or even large pieces of newspaper wadded up to stuff the dummy. Be generous with the stuffing! A balloon with a face drawn on makes a good head.

What Shouldn't I Use to Make a Dummy? Don't use sand to fill the dummy as it can fly into the eyes, nose, mouth etc. of the spectators. **Never put anything into or on the dummy that can fly off** such as button, boots, sticks, or wire). Keep in mind that a PTO can revolve 6 to 16 times per second, and anything attached or embedded in the dummy can become a projectile and injure the presenter or spectators.

How Do I Attach the Dummy to the PTO? Baling twine works well as regular string breaks easily and wire is dangerous. Wrap the twine a couple of times around the dummy's waist and crisscross over the shoulders, or down the sleeves. The ends of the baling twine need to be attached securely to the universal joint of the PTO shaft with no protective cover in place. Make sure any hydraulic hoses near the PTO shaft are disconnected and moved out of the way, as the force of the rotating dummy could damage them.

Stress to children that they must stay completely away and should not stand near, step over, or attempt to go under a PTO shaft. Don't assume they understand if you only say not to stand by it.



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