

Instructor's Guide for "My Experience with Tractor Overturns" ¹

This activity is about farmers' experiences with tractor overturns. The activity polls members of a group to learn more about the frequency of tractor overturns and their consequences. The purpose of the activity is to:

- Raise awareness about this problem within local communities of farmers.
- Examine the consequences of tractor overturns as experienced by local people.
- Consider how these events and their resulting injuries, fatalities, and costs can be prevented.
- Collect information and stories useful for teaching others about this problem and its prevention.

The activity personalizes the risk of injury from tractor overturns. In nearly any farm community, many people know others who have been killed or injured during tractor overturns.

How to Conduct this Activity

First explain the activity and its purpose. Invite the members of the group to participate in the poll by responding to a series of questions. (It is OK if some persons do not wish to participate.)

1. Explain that "ROPS" is the abbreviation for "rollover protective structure," a tractor roll bar that keeps the operator from being crushed during an overturn.
2. Begin the session by giving each person one sheet of paper with a copy of pages 2 and 3 printed front and back.
3. Ask each person to answer the 20 questions by filling in all the blanks with the appropriate numbers. Only numbers should be placed in each blank. A zero indicates that a person doesn't know personally anyone who overturned a tractor as described in each section.
4. After everyone completes the "Twenty Questions" activity, give each person a copy of page 4 of this document.
5. Make an overhead transparency of the "Experience with Tractor Overturns Summary Data Sheet" on page 5. Then poll the group and tabulate the results on the overhead projector transparency. (See page 6 for an example of a completed Summary Data Sheet form.)
6. Show the tabulations on the transparency to the group and discuss the results.
7. Identify those persons who agree to write their stories on the "My Story" form (page 3) on the back of their "Twenty Questions" form (page 2).
8. Collect the completed "Twenty Questions" and "My Story" forms and return these to the person conducting the session.
9. Ask the participants to comment on the results of the poll. Discuss questions 2 - 7 on page 4. Summarize the participants' answers in the "Comment" section at the top of the form and on the back if needed.

Note: The information on the summary form on page 5 can be collected privately from individuals' papers, or publicly by asking for a show of hands for each question while marking the totals in the appropriate blanks on the Summary Data Sheet. When done publicly, the procedure is faster and allows the presenter to gather information that may be omitted by participants. ("How many of these people who died were on a ROPS-equipped tractor?") Done privately the procedure takes longer, but respects those who don't wish to share their information with the whole group. Use whichever method is appropriate for your group.

¹ Developed September 1997 by Janet Ehlers and Henry Cole. Revised February 1998. This work was supported by CDC/NIOSH Cooperative Agreements U06/CCU412900-01, -02, and -03 to the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention, Department of Preventive Medicine, University of Kentucky. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of CDC/NIOSH or the US Government.

Twenty Questions about My Experience with Tractor Overturns

Persons you know personally who died in tractor overturns

1. How many people do you know personally who died in a tractor overturn? _____
2. Where did this happen? ____ In this county ____ In another KY Co. ____ Elsewhere
3. How many of these people who died were on a ROPS-equipped tractor? _____
4. How many of these people who died were wearing a seat belt on a ROPS tractor? _____
5. How many of these people who died were members of your family? _____

Persons you know personally who received a permanent disability from a tractor overturn

6. How many people do you know personally who received a permanent disability from a tractor overturn? _____
7. Where did this happen? ____ In this county ____ In another KY Co. ____ Elsewhere
8. How many of these people disabled were on a ROPS-equipped tractor? _____
9. How many of these people disabled were wearing a seat belt on a ROPS tractor? _____
10. How many of these people disabled are members of your family? _____

Persons you know personally who were seriously injured in tractor overturns

11. How many people do you know personally who were seriously injured (required medical care and hospital stay) in a tractor overturn? _____
12. Where did this happen? ____ In this KY county ____ In another KY Co. ____ Elsewhere
13. How many of these people who were injured were on a ROPS-equipped tractor? _____
14. How many of these persons injured were wearing a seat belt on a ROPS tractor? _____
15. How many of these people seriously injured are members of your family? _____

Persons you know personally who overturned a tractor but who were not injured

16. How many people do you know personally who were not injured in a tractor overturn? _____
17. Where did this happen? ____ In this county ____ In another KY Co. ____ Elsewhere
18. How many of these people not injured were on a ROPS-equipped tractor? _____
19. How many of these people not injured were wearing a seat belt on a ROPS tractor? _____
20. How many of these people not injured are members of your family? _____

My Story

Thanks for participating in this activity and for sharing the information you provided. We would like to use your story to help teach others about tractor overturns and the value of ROPS and seat belts. If you agree, would you please complete and sign this form.

- 1. Please list your name, address, area code, and telephone number. _____

 May we contact you and use your story as an educational message for others? ____ Yes ____ No

- 2. Please write a short description of a tractor overturn event that you or someone you know experienced.

Tell whom it happened to:

Tell when it happened (year, month, time of day) and where it happened:

Tell what the person was doing when the tractor overturned:

Explain how the tractor overturned: (backward or sideways rollover, struck by a vehicle, fell off a ramp, ran into a hole, ran into a ditch, etc.)

Tell what happened to the person on the tractor, whether the person was injured or not, and if injured, the extent of the injury.

Please describe the impact of the rollover on the person and his or her family (financial, emotional, farm operation, family life, changes in tractors and tractor-driving practices on the farm, such as getting ROPS, etc.) Write on another blank page and attach it to this page if you need more room.

I grant the University of Kentucky permission to use my story in print and other forms of media to teach others about tractor overturn injuries, their effects and prevention.
 (check one) ____ Yes ____ No You may use my name with my story. ____ Yes ____ No

Signed _____ Date _____

Taking Stock and Discussing How to Prevent Overturn Injuries and Fatalities

(Use this section as a concluding activity and group discussion.)

Now that you have completed the "Twenty Questions" form, four things should happen.

1. You will be presented with a summary of the results for the whole group.
2. You will be asked to examine, discuss, and comment on these results.
3. You will have an opportunity to talk about how tractor overturn injuries can be prevented.
4. If you are comfortable with doing so, you will be asked to describe details of tractor rollover injury and fatality events you know about. If you want to, you can write your story on the "My Story" form and describe who was injured, how it happened, and its effect on the family and the farming operation. The "My Story" form is found just after or on the back of the "Twenty Questions" page.

Discussion Questions

1. Have many tractor overturns occurred in this community over the last 30 to 40 years?
2. How many different people do the members of this group know who:
 - Died in tractor overturns?
 - Were permanently disabled in tractor overturns?
 - Were seriously injured in tractor overturns?
 - Were not injured when they overturned a tractor without a ROPS?
 - Were not injured when they overturned a tractor with a ROPS?
3. When the group consists of older farmers (age 50-70), what happens to the total number of persons that they know who have overturned a tractor? Why? (Look at the page 6 in this document for the results for a group of Fleming County farmers.)
4. What things could be done to make sure that no one in this community dies during a tractor overturn in the next 30 years? Which of these suggestions are practical? Impractical? Why?
5. Who is it that can make a difference in reducing tractor overturn injuries and deaths? How can they do so?

Summary Data Sheet for Experience with Tractor Overturns

Site _____ Date _____ Instructor _____

No. of Persons in Group _____ Describe Group _____

Comments _____

Persons Known Who Died in Tractor Overturns

Total Died	Where?	Number with ROPS	Number wore Seat Belt	Number Family Members
Total Deaths =	This county =			
	Other KY co =			
	Elsewhere =			

Persons Known Permanently Disabled in Tractor Overturns

Total Disabled	Where?	Number with ROPS?	Number wore Seat Belt?	Number Family Members?
Total Disabled =	This county =			
	Other KY co =			
	Elsewhere =			

Persons Known Seriously Injured in Tractor Overturns

Total Seriously Injured	Where?	Number with ROPS?	Number wore Seat Belt?	Number Family Members?
Total Seriously Injured =	This county =			
	Other KY co =			
	Elsewhere =			

Persons Known Not Injured in Tractor Overturns

Total Not Injured	Where?	Number with ROPS?	Number wore Seat Belt?	Number Family Members?
Total Not Injured =	This county =			
	Other KY co =			
	Elsewhere =			

Sample Summary Data Sheet for Fleming County Farmers

Site Fleming County Date 2/12/97 Instructor H. P. Cole

No. of Persons in Group 14 Describe Group Farm Community Leaders, age 38-60

Comments: Group took the task seriously. The large number of overturn injuries (13) and deaths (14) surprised them. They thought the activity personalized the risk of tractor overturns.

Persons Known Who Died in Tractor Overturns

Total Died	Where?	Number with ROPS	Number wore Seat Belt	Number Family Members
Total Deaths = 14	This county = 6	0	0	1
	Other KY co = 7			
	Elsewhere = 1			

Persons Known Permanently Disabled in Tractor Overturns

Total Disabled	Where?	Number with ROPS?	Number wore Seat Belt?	Number Family Members?
Total Permanently = 0 Disabled	This county = 0	0	0	0
	Other KY co = 0			
	Elsewhere = 0			

Persons Known Seriously Injured in Tractor Overturns

Total Seriously Injured	Where?	Number with ROPS?	Number wore Seat Belt?	Number Family Members?
Total Seriously = 13 Injured	This county = 9	0	?	1
	Other KY co = 4			
	Elsewhere = 0			

Persons Known Not Injured in Tractor Overturns

Total Not Injured	Where?	Number with ROPS?	Number wore Seat Belt?	Number Family Members?
Total Not = 11 Injured	This county = 8	2	?	1
	Other KY co = 3			
	Elsewhere = 0			