



Shortcuts are Short-sighted! or, Invest Seconds, Save Lives¹

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Stepping over a power take-off instead of walking around a tractor might seem like a time-saving shortcut, but it exposes you to a much greater risk of injury or death.

Often, there's a "recommended safe way" of doing a task and a way that seems quicker but is more hazardous. Many people use the more dangerous shortcut to save time.

However, timed studies show that the time invested in doing a task safely is quite insignificant, especially when compared to the costs of injuries or possible death that could result from the extra hazards involved in the shortcut.

Taking a few seconds to do a task safely may seem inconvenient at the time, but Table 1 shows how little time it takes. Remember that every time you take a shortcut, you are rolling the dice for injury or death.

For some specific examples of the small amount of time it takes to be safe, see Table 2. To put these times in perspective, the total time invested for 100 repetitions of the task was calculated.

Table 1.

Time Invested	Total Time for 100 Repetitions
3 seconds	5 minutes
5 seconds	10 minutes
10 seconds	17 minutes

Remember:



For More Information

For more information about tractor safety, visit the Florida AgSafe Network Web site:

<http://www.flagsafe.ufl.edu>

The following publications are available at your county Extension office and at the EDIS Web site, <<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>>. (IFAS Publication Numbers

1. This document is AE306, one of a series of the Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Supported in part by the NIOSH Deep-South Center for Occupational Health and Safety, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida. First published September 2001. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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are in parentheses after the titles. The second set of parentheses contains the Web address at which the publication can be viewed.)

- Getting Started on the Right Foot: Dangers of Bypass Starting (AE299) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE172.>)
- When Two's a Crowd: Dangers of Extra Riders on Tractor (AE300) (View this publication at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE173.>)•
- Filling Gas Cans Safely (AE301) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE174.>)
- Lighting and Marking Farm Equipment for Road Travel -- Summary of ASAE Standard S279.10 (AE302) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE175.>)
- Road Safety for Tractors and Farm Machinery (AE303) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE176.>)
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) (AE304) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE177.>)
- Avoid The Invisible Hazard: Know About Soil Shear Lines (AE305) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE178.>)
- Shortcuts are Shortsighted! or Invest Seconds, Save Lives (AE306) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE179.>)
- Ready or Not? Get Ready with a Tractor Operator Checklist (AE307) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE180.>)
- Yee-Haa! Formula for a Successful Tractor Rodeo (AE308) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE181.>)
- Hand-me-down Hazards: Dangers of Used Equipment (AE309) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE182.>)
- Safety Tips for Tractor Loading and Towing (AE310) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE183.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Agricultural Employers (Circular 1249) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE195.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Privately Owned and Operated Farms and Ranches (Circular 1250) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE196.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Acreages and Homeowners (Circular 1251) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE197.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Landscape Maintenance and Horticultural Industries (Circular 1252) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE198.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Emergency and Rescue Personnel (Circular 1253) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE199.>)
- Safer Tractor Operations for Farm Workers and Employees (Circular 1254) (View this publication at: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/AE200.>)

Table 2.

Task	Time Invested	100 Repetitions
Walking down steps instead of jumping off combine	7 seconds	12 minutes
Walking around an auger instead of stepping over it	2 seconds	3 1/2 minutes
Engaging cylinder locks on combine when working near or under head	30 seconds	50 minutes
Getting off mower to pick up something instead of leaning over to pick it up as you drive by	20 seconds	33 minutes
Remember: The time you invest in performing a task safely is minimal when you compare it to the high financial and emotional costs associated with death, injury and disability.		