

SAFELY WORKING WITH POWER TAKE-OFF SHAFTS

Power take-off or PTO shafts are extremely hazardous! While needed to transfer power from a tractor to the implement or machine connected behind it, PTOs can cause serious injury and death when body parts get caught and pulled in.

PTO PRIMARY SAFETY POINTS:

- All moving machinery parts should be guarded.
- The master shield should be in place and secured with a retaining pin and PTO guard installed.
- Anchor the shaft guard to stop it from rotating.
- Enclose the joints with a guard.
- Keep shields in place when using the tractor.
- Always make sure all guards and shields are reattached if removed during maintenance.
- Ensure you have solid and stable footing when working near PTOs.
- Never step over a shaft – walk around if you need to get to the other side.
- Remove jewelry and watches.
- Long hair should be restrained – either placed under a hat or high on the head.
- Avoid loose clothing that could be caught by the shaft. This is especially true of long-sleeve shirts with the wrists unbuttoned.
- Have your mind on the task when working near PTOs – this means no texting or horseplay.
- Children and PTOs are not compatible – keep them away.

