

# Agricultural Safety

## Caught In/Caught Between



## Why it's a big deal in agriculture

Agriculture is one of the more hazardous industries due to:

- Frequent use of heavy machinery such as tractors combines, augers and balers
- Tasks around unpredictable livestock
- Confined spaces like grain bins where workers can be buried or crushed,
- And uneven ground or changing work conditions in the fields

Montana farm and ranch work includes many of these elements so the risk of being caught in/caught between hazards is real and requires vigilance. In the past five years, the agricultural industry reported 255 caught in/caught between injuries to Montana State Fund with a total cost of \$6,282,226.

## What is a caught in/caught between hazard?

Caught in or caught between hazards happen when a worker becomes:

- Squeezed, pinched, crushed or compressed between two or more objects
- Pulled into or trapped in moving parts of machinery
- Or pinned between equipment and another surface or object

## Steps to reduce the risk

- Understanding where pinch, shear, wrap and crush points are on every machine. Do you have standard operating procedure/maintenance procedures? Check manufactures operating manual.
- Never remove guards and safety shields.
- Follow lockout/tagout procedures before equipment maintenance.
- Keep a safe distance from moving equipment and vehicles. Make sure operator can see/communicate with you.
- Wearing proper clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE). Avoid loose sleeves, jewelry or untied hair that can get caught in equipment.
- Stay trained and aware of your surroundings. Effectively communicate with your coworkers.

## Common scenarios that lead to injuries

- Working on or near moving equipment without guarding
- Performing maintenance without locking out all energy sources
- Wearing loose clothing or long hair untied near rotating shafts or equipment
- Being between equipment and fixed structures (like walls, trailers, etc.)
- Handling heavy loads that can shift and trap an employee

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These safety guidelines are in place to help protect you. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand them.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Print**

**Sign**

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