

# TAILGATE TOPIC



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## TOPIC: Agricultural Machine Guarding

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**OVERVIEW:** The machines and equipment used in agriculture today are very powerful and capable of causing serious injury or death. Ensuring that proper guards are available and used is the key to reducing or completely preventing hazards that lead to injuries. It is very important that all employees have the ability to recognize these hazards and understand the action to take if a problem is noted. Following the rules below can significantly reduce these exposures.

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### TALKING POINTS:

- Only trained and authorized personnel are permitted to work on, remove, or adjust a guard on a piece of equipment or machinery.
- Inspections by competent/trained employees will be conducted and documented on a scheduled basis to detect hazards.
- Hazardous equipment such as pulleys, sprockets, gears, augers, and rotating parts should be guarded at all times. Any missing guards or other problems will be reported to the supervisor immediately.
- Power take offs (PTOs), PTO shafts, and other rotating equipment will be fully guarded. The guards will be maintained in good condition and fully cover the hazard.
- Only authorized personnel will attempt to adjust, service, or repair equipment. If a guard has been removed for any reason, Lockout, Tagout, or Blockout procedures will be followed.
- Shop equipment and machinery should also be checked frequently for proper guarding. This includes grinders, drill presses, lathes, power tools, etc. Any equipment found to be unguarded should be taken out of service and properly tagged/locked out.

- All employees using the equipment or machinery should be fully trained on its use and the importance of maintaining the guards.

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### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. Who is permitted to work on, remove, or adjust a guard on a piece of equipment or machinery? (Answer: trained and authorized personnel).
2. Who is required to inspect equipment and how often should it be inspected? (Answer: competent/trained employees on a scheduled basis).
3. What hazards are common in the agricultural setting, which requires the use of guards? Can you name some of the hazards? (Answer: Unguarded pulleys, sprockets, augers, and rotating parts, including PTOs and shafts)
4. If a guard is missing, damaged, or loose, who should be contacted and should work continue before repairs are completed? (Answer: Contact supervisor and remove from service until repaired).
5. When should Lockout/Tagout/ Blockout procedures be utilized? (Answer: When adjusting, servicing or repairing equipment)

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