



STOPPING AND DISMOUNTING THE TRACTOR

HOSTA Task Sheet 4.9

Core

NATIONAL SAFE TRACTOR AND MACHINERY OPERATION PROGRAM

Introduction

Stopping and shutting off a tractor at the end of a day or for an extended period of time involves some specific procedures. Safe tractor operation includes climbing down from the tractor in a safe way. Many operators have ended up with twisted or broken bones from slipping and falling while recklessly jumping off tractors. This task sheet identifies safe tractor shutdown procedures and the safe way to dismount from a tractor.



Figure 4.9.a. To prevent falls, use the handholds and footsteps provided to dismount from the tractor. Falls while dismounting account for many farm injuries each year.

Shutting Down the Tractor

At the end of a day, there are many things to think about as you prepare to park and shut the tractor off for a period of time or for the night.

- Engine cool down—Manufacturers suggest cooling the engine for several minutes at a fast idle (800-1200 RPM) to prevent internal damage to hot engine parts. While letting the engine idle to cool, check all systems on the tractor. Then stop the engine.
- Hydraulic system—Even if you did not use the hydraulic system recently, static pressure keeps hydraulic lines pressurized. Work the hydraulic controls to relieve

that pressure. It will be easier to attach the hydraulic lines later.

- Stop and park on the most level ground possible. Set the brakes (both brakes should be locked together) or place the gearshift in PARK.
- Lower all attached equipment to the ground.
- Place all controls and switches in an off, neutral, or locked position.
- Chock wheels if a heavy load is attached to the tractor to prevent runaways.

Stopping the tractor is more than turning the ignition key to the "off" position.

Learning Goals

- To know safe tractor shutdown procedures
- To learn to dismount a tractor safely

Related Task Sheets:

Starting and Stopping Diesel and Gasoline Engines	4.7
Mounting and Starting the Tractor	4.8

Safe Tractor Dismounting

The keys to safely dismounting are:

- Keep the operator platform free of tools, equipment, mud or other debris.
- Face the tractor, and use handholds and steps that are provided. Try to keep three points (two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand) on the tractor at all times.
- Take the key with you. Untrained operators, children, and visitors cannot accidentally start the engine if the keys are removed.



Figure 4.9.b. The key has been removed from the ignition. Untrained operators and little children cannot start the tractor if the key is removed from the ignition.

Remove ignition key to prevent untrained persons from starting the tractor.

Safety Activities

1. Practice your safe tractor shutdown procedure in front of a parent, instructor or classmate. Explain each step as you complete the procedure.
2. Ask the tractor owner(s) what policy they have for removing the keys from tractor ignition switches when the tractor is not in use.
3. If chock blocks are not available for wagons and implements at home, manufacture chock blocks in your school shop or home shop area.

References

1. Owners' Manuals for Specific Tractors.
2. Farm and Ranch Safety Management, John Deere Publishing, 1994.

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