

**SAFETY ALERT - #12 - 2009**  
**WORKER FATALLY INJURED AFTER BEING CAUGHT IN POWER TAKE OFF**  
**RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 28, 2009**

<b>Function:</b> Oilfield Trucking	<b>Incident Date:</b> March 12, 2009
<b>Location:</b> Onshore	<b>Location Detail:</b> Wellsite
<b>Incident Type:</b> Caught in Operating Equipment	<b>Country / Region:</b> Saskatchewan

**Summary**

A contract truck driver was found under his truck caught in the Power Take Off (PTO) with his arm severed.

**Description of Incident:**

A contract truck driver was taking longer than usual at the site, so the co-owner of the trucking company went to the site to investigate. The driver was found caught in the Power Take Off (PTO) under the truck with his arm severed. The Emergency Response Plan was implemented, the scene secured and the worker was provided appropriate medical attention.

Four weeks after the incident, the worker passed away as a result of his injuries. Further information is pending an investigation by Saskatchewan Occupational Health and Safety.



**We Can Prevent Future Incidents:**

To prevent similar incidents, truck owners and operators are reminded of the following important control measures:

- Establish and enforce working alone practices including hazard assessments and procedures
- Ensure the training of employees includes a detailed review of the potential hazards.
- Where practical, ensure that guards are placed on all moving equipment such as PTO's.
- Ensure all safety measures including 'Lock Out/Tag Out' are taken prior to working near potentially hazardous mechanical equipment such as PTO's.

As a reminder, a summary of relevant PTO safety information is provided on the following page.



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The following excerpts were taken from safety alerts published by Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development: **Safety Up!** on [PTO Safety Practices](#). They are relevant to the oil and gas industry and are worth review at your next safety meeting.

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#### **PTO SAFETY PRACTICES**

Though not always easy or convenient, there are several ways to reduce the risk of PTO injury incidents. These safety practices offer protection from the most common types of PTO entanglements.

- Make it a specific point to keep all components of PTO systems shielded and guarded.
- Regularly test driveline guards by spinning or rotating them to ensure they have not become stuck to the shaft.
- Disengage the PTO and shut off the tractor before dismounting to clean, repair, service, or adjust machinery.
- Walk around tractors and machinery rather than stepping over a rotating shaft.
- Keep universal joints in phase. (Check the operators manual or with a farm implement dealer if you do not understand what this means).
- Always use the driveline recommended for your machine. Never switch drivelines among different machines.
- Position the tractor's drawbar properly for each machine used. This will help prevent driveline stress and separation on uneven terrain and in tight turns.
- Reduce PTO shaft abuse by observing the following: avoid tight turns that pinch rotating shafts between the tractor and machine; keep excessive telescoping to a minimum; engage power to the shaft gradually; and avoid over tightening of slip clutches on PTO-driven machines.

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#### **Contact:**

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#### **DISCLAIMER:**

This Safety Alert is designed to prevent similar incidents by communicating the information at the earliest possible opportunity. Accordingly, the information may change over time. It may be necessary to obtain updates from the source before relying upon the accuracy of the information contained herein. This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers and supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.